

TVMS Newsletter

January 9, 2016

Important Dates

Jan. 18	HCPSS Schools & Offices Closed
Jan. 12	PTSA Meeting
Jan. 12 – 13	6 th Grade MAP Testing
Jan. 14 – 15	7 th and 8 th Grade MAP Testing
Jan. 22	3-Hour Early Dismissal
Jan. 22	End of Marking Period
Jan. 29	Pride Spirit – Jersey Day!
Feb. 1	Report Cards Issued
Feb. 4 – 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

The start of the new calendar year is off on a positive note for both students and staff. It is hard to believe that the end of the second quarter is on January 22nd. Second quarter report cards will be issued on February 1st. Students have been encouraged to monitor their own grades through Canvas, celebrate areas of success, and work with teachers to improve in areas of academic concern. As always, TVMS staff are committed to each child's success, so please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers with any questions or concerns. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for February 4 – 5. Information regarding times and scheduling will be forthcoming.

Mid-year provides the perfect time to check with your child to see if there are any supplies or materials they need to replenish. We are also encouraging students to clean out their binders and start the second semester off in an organized and efficient manner.

MAP testing is scheduled for January 12 – 15. Please help your student receive a good breakfast on the days of the test as well as a good night's sleep the nights before. Also, if your child wears eyeglasses or hearing aids, be sure that he/she comes to school with them during the days of testing. Encourage your child to feel relaxed and confident during the test.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your student and TVMS.

Regards,
Shiney Ann John
Principal

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

From Guidance

Parent / Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place February 4 - 5. Thomas Viaduct Middle School will conduct conferences on the following dates:

Thursday, February 4th afternoon	1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 5th morning	8:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Friday, February 5th afternoon	12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Beginning January 19th, parents can log into HCPSS Connect to view and select from the time slots provided by the teacher for the conference. Parents without online access may contact Ms. Nicholson in Student Services at 410-313-8247 for assistance in scheduling conferences. All conferences will be 15 minutes and will take place in the room identified when scheduling.

The conference-scheduling window will close on Monday, February 1. After February 1, please contact Ms. Nicholson, Student Services Secretary, at 410-313-8247, when conference cancellations are necessary. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Nicholson.

High School Information

JROTC

- **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

Career Academy Information Night

- **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.

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.

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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.

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: **CONFIDENCE**

Students especially talented in the CONFIDENCE theme believe in themselves and their ability to be successful in their endeavors. They believe in themselves and what they can do. This helps them take on challenges, because they feel sure they can succeed.

Because they are confident, they are able to do things that others may not want to try. Knowing that they are a unique and special person in the world gives them the power to be who they are. They don't have to be like everybody else, and they don't have to follow the crowd. Even when they don't feel it, other people may see them as brave because they will speak up even if no one else will. They are sure enough of their opinions that they will take a stand for them. It is great to believe in what they can do because this belief helps them do more in their life.

Stay tuned! In our next newsletter, we will provide CONFIDENCE action items for adults.

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

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, January 13th, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Homewood School. 10914 MD-108; Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information, contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

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Yearbook

Be sure to order the TVMS yearbook by February 5th. It is full of beautiful color photos to celebrate the amazing year. Hundreds of photos will help preserve your memories of the year. Order forms went home with students on Monday, January 4th. Forms are also available in the front office or Media Center. If you would like to order online, simply click on the link below to check all of the available options (paperback, hardcover, personalization, etc.). Save money by pre-ordering yours today at www.ybpay.lifetouch.com (Yearbook ID Code 12257816).

Yearbook prices increase after February 5th.

Drug Awareness Presentation at Hammond High School

On Thursday, February 4, 2016, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Hammond High School will be hosting a drug awareness presentation for parents, teachers, coaches, and other professionals on the subject of new trends in street drugs, prevention education, treatment resources, and drug testing. The featured guest speaker will be Mike Gimbel, a dynamic presenter, who has been in the field of substance abuse education, treatment, and prevention for over 30 years. Mike was the first "Drug Czar" in Baltimore County, Maryland, and has served on many state and national boards. Mike has testified in front of Congress and has received numerous awards for his work with those who are suffering from a substance abuse problem. Mike has developed programs for athletes, coaches, and parents and is certified by the NCAA to provide services to all college athletes across the United States. Please plan to attend.

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.

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 – Student Search and Seizure (Policy 9260)

Authorized school officials have the right to search students, their possessions, and automobiles during the school day, and at school-related activities, when the school official has a reasonable belief that the student possesses an impermissible item. Additionally, authorized school officials may search property assigned to a student for school use, such as lockers, desks, electronic devices, and cubbies, at any time.

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Tips for School Success – Make a Winter-Weather Plan

Have an advance plan for snow days or sick days. Can another family member or neighbor care for your kids while you work? Make sure you have a safety kit in case of power outages; have your children help assemble it so they get a lesson in emergency preparation, too. For more tips on school success, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>.

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