

TVMS Newsletter

September 16, 2016

Important Dates

Oct. 3	Schools and Offices Closed
Oct. 4	Fall Student Pictures
Oct. 4	PTSA Meeting
Oct. 6	Interim Report Cards Issued
Oct. 12	Schools and Offices Closed
Oct. 16	HCPSS 5K / Fun Run
Nov. 2 – 4	6 th Grade Outdoor Education Extended Field Trip
Nov. 15	Flu Shot Clinic

A Note From the Principal

TVMS Families,

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Back-to-School Night yesterday evening. We hope you enjoyed spending an evening meeting your student's teachers and hearing about the great things that are happening during your student's day at TVMS. Your participation in parent events reflects the incredible support we have from our parents and community. We truly are partners in your student's academic success.

Please find time to talk with your student about their progress in school. We also encourage you to make sure homework routines are established and study skills are practiced to ensure success. Although interim reports will be issued on October 6th, please contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss any areas of concern that arise.

We are still in need of 173 families to update their Family File Emergency Card for the 2016-17 school year. If you need any assistance with your Family Emergency File Card, please contact Student Services, and they will be happy to assist you.

Thank you again for all you do to support our students.

Regards,

Shiney Ann John, Principal

October 4th is Picture Day!

Reminder that Lifetouch Photography will be at TVMS to photograph students on Tuesday, October 4th.

All students will need to be photographed for yearbook and administrative purposes, but only those submitting a completed order form to the photographer on picture day will receive a portrait package. Information on available packages and payment will be sent home with students soon.

TVMS Phone Numbers – Hours 7:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Main Office
Student Services (Registration, Student Schedules, Guidance Counselors)
Health Room
Fax

410-313-8711
410-313-8247
410-313-8714
410-313-8091

HCPSS Family Emergency File Form – Please Complete

If you have not completed the Family Emergency File Form, we are asking you to make that a priority. **The Family Emergency Form must be completed each school year. Even if your child's emergency contact is the same as last year, we need you to go into your child's account and either update or confirm his/her emergency information.** Thank you to the families who have already updated/confirmed their child's emergency contact information in Family File.

Login to HCPSS Connect and select the Family File tab to review and, if needed, update your child's emergency contact, medical, arrival/departure information, and your preferences regarding data confidentiality.

User guides for HCPSS Connect account activation and password reset, as well as Family File can be found in Guides.

NOTE: You must have a valid HCPSS Connect username and password to access the Family File.

If parents/guardians forget their passwords, they can have HCPSS Connect email them a temporary password.

1. On the HCPSS Connect website, click the HCPSS Connect Login button.
2. Click the Parent/Guardian Forgot Password link.
3. Enter the email address used at the time of registration.
4. Click the Send Email button.
5. The parent/guardian will receive an email with a temporary password and a link to login.
6. The parent/guardian will click on that link and use the email address used at the time of registration and the temporary email to gain access.

If you have forgotten your username and password or if you experience any issues completing the Family File, please submit your issue using the Help feature on the HCPSS Connect page at: <http://www.hcpss.org/connect>.

PTSA

The next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, October 4th, at 6 p.m., in the Media Center. The PTSA is a great way to get involved in your student's school experience, learn what is happening at TVMS, discover great resources, help make positive changes, and be a role model for your child. Support for the PTSA fundraisers is greatly appreciated:

Spirit Cups – perfect gift for your sports fan (Deadline: September 30, 2016)

<https://www.spiritcupsdirect.com/participant/id/2124293/thomasvio001>

Fall Flower Bulbs – delivered to your door (Deadline: October 14, 2016)

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/i/t/514991/OCs7ju9mG6Vb>

You can learn more about our PTSA at www.tvmsptsa.org. You can join the PTSA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gropus/tvmsptsa/> as well.

HCPSS 5K / 1-Mile Fun Run

The Howard County Public School System presents "Let's Go HoCo - HCPSS Community 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run!" The event is on Sunday, October 16th, with an 8 a.m. start, for the 1-Mile Fun Run and an 8:15-8:17 a.m. start for the 5K at Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD.

This event brings together HCPSS students, families, and staff, as well as all members of our community, to celebrate a Healthy Howard County.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.hcpss5k.com/home.html>.

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Alpha Staff

Is there a TVMS staff member who is making a difference in your student's life? Please nominate them for Alpha Staff. Eligible to be nominated are teachers, counselors, office, custodial, and administrative staff. Staff can be nominated in the classroom and/or school community. Forms may be picked up in the Front Office, requested via email at michelle_mackall@hcpss.org, or found online at the TVMS website, <http://tvms.hcpss.org/about/staff-award>.

Student Leadership and Service Opportunity

HCASC invites middle and high school students interested in student leadership and service opportunities to attend the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) meetings the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Homewood Cafeteria, 10914 MD 108, Columbia, MD 21042.

- Sharing the Student Voice on School Policy and Community Issues
- Gaining Leadership Skills
- Practicing Community Service
- Working with student leaders from across HCPSS

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 12th. For more information please contact cindy_drummond@hcpss.org.

Tips for School Success – Note from Guidance on Student Absence

Student absences are recorded on a daily basis, and until we receive a note from home, they are recorded as unexcused. A note from a parent must be submitted to the school within two school days of the student's return, indicating the date and reason for tardiness or absence from a regular school session. A doctor's certificate is required in cases of a long-term absence due to illness. A note should also be submitted to request early dismissal or exclusion from activities (e.g., physical education). If you are planning an extended absence due to travel, please submit the Extended or Discretionary Absence form, which can be found [here](#).

Policy Corner – Attendance (Policy 9010)

Regular daily attendance is vital to the continuity of classroom instruction and participation in school activities. Therefore, students are required to be in school or to be attending a school activity each day school is in session. In recognition that situations do arise that necessitate absence from school, the Board of Education allows students to be lawfully absent for a death in the family, illness, a court summons, hazardous weather as determined by the Superintendent, work release, religious obligation, declared State emergencies, suspension, or for other emergencies or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence.

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