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On a bi-weekly basis, we acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our staff and students. We encourage our staff to submit accolades for recognizing the dedication of others. The accolades appear on the first pages of our newsletter. As contributing members to Towson High School, we represent 5 STAR Generals.

We appreciate our staff and students for demonstrating leadership, citizenship, scholarship, and integrity. If you would like to submit an accolade for one of our students/staff members for the great work that they do within our community, please submit the information to cdmino@bcps.org and cc dlauten@bcps.org. Help us recognize the outstanding efforts of our students and staff.

★ STARS to Courtney Jacobs and Rachel Valsing for their leadership and support of the students of the Black Student Union.

★ STARS to Lauryn Sekitoleko, Nicolas Oke, Keturah Omo-Osagie, Ziporah Ogabo, Rere Adeoye, Melody Miller, Oluwatofarati Oteju, Khary Sarr, Oluwatoyosi Dada, and Tyla Chase for their presentation and implementation of the events associated with Black History Month and for their outstanding leadership that shines throughout the entire school year.

★ STARS to Keturah Omo-Osagie for her dedication, efforts, and time with creating a video for Black History Month.

★ STARS to Scott Olson and Felicia Schrader for their attention to detail.

★ STARS to Erika Nash for her efforts with #LoveTeaching Week and Educators Rising.

★ STARS to Laura Russo for her leadership with training for the staff and disseminating important information.

★ We are so incredibly proud of our student leaders of the Black Student Union. While each year we participate in events for Black History Month, our students and staff strive to educate our school and community throughout the entire school year. We encourage you to take some time to view the outstanding efforts of our students and staff by accessing the presentation below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOPZ2AoYLws&feature=youtu.be

Important Upcoming Dates
March 15 ....................... FALS students return to the building
March 22 ....................... 9th graders return to the building
March 29—April 5 .......... Spring Break
April 6 ....................... 10-12 graders return to the building
Schedule Update Regarding In-Person Student Return

Last evening, BCPS families received an update regarding the change to student schedules that is necessary in response to the return of students in the school setting. How does the information that was communicated from BCPS impact our students and staff at Towson High School?

Our schedule will still have 4 courses and opportunities for independent time.

The start and end times of our revised schedule and courses within the schedule will be modified based on students being present in the building. However, please know that the day will conclude @ 2:05 p.m.

The schedule change, specific to the start and end times of courses, will go into effect for our entire student population on March 15, 2021.

Our Re-Entry Team of 30 staff members is working diligently on finalizing a schedule that considers the needs of all learners simultaneously. We will share this schedule with our families once it has received final approval.

WEEK OF MARCH 8th: Some of our teachers will be hosting asynchronous classes on Monday, March 8, 2021 and modified classes on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, and March 12, 2021. This change to their schedules is to allow for planning time for incoming students the following week.

We have approximately 25 teachers that have been approved for asynchronous instruction during the week of March 8, 2021. The teachers that have been approved for the modified schedule for the week of March 8th will advise their students of the change during this upcoming week of instruction.

WEEK OF MARCH 8th: (Classes associated with 25 teachers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, March 8, 2021</th>
<th>Tuesday, March 9, 2021</th>
<th>Wednesday, March 10, 2021</th>
<th>Thursday, March 11, 2021</th>
<th>Friday, March 12, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous Classes</td>
<td>Virtual Classes in accordance with current schedule</td>
<td>Virtual .5 hr. class meets 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Virtual Classes in accordance with current schedule</td>
<td>Virtual .5 hr. class meetings for select teachers and students. Start times will be provided by select teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Asynchronous Afternoon</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 hour early dismissal for select teachers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Our school will continue with our current schedule during this week unless notified by the individual teacher of a schedule change.
As the time draws near for schools to re-open, we are sure you are wondering what to expect. Our teachers, staff, and administrators at Towson High School are working diligently to ensure the return to the classroom is a safe and successful experience. But for now, here are a few answers to some frequently asked questions to ease your mind.

• What should I bring when I return to school?
When you return to school you will be expected to bring your fully charged device and charger, along with other necessary supplies such as pencil and paper. Your teacher will let you know what additional supplies will be needed. It is also recommended that you bring an extra mask just in case. A strong reliable backpack would also be helpful because students will not be able to use lockers. Hand sanitizer and soap will be provided however, students are welcome to bring their own for their personal use only. Water bottles are permitted for water fountains will not be accessible.

• How will the classrooms be set up?
Each classroom will be arranged so that students will be positioned 6ft apart. Classroom doors will be open to limit contact with commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs. When students enter the room, they will be required to sanitize their hands and will receive wipes to clean the surface of their desk and chair.

• Where will I eat lunch?
Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. The cafeteria will be arranged for students to sit 6ft apart. Markings on the floor will assist with social distancing when in the lunch lines. Lunch is free to students. Students can bring their lunch if they prefer. Immediately after eating, students will be required to put their mask back on.

• Will traveling in the hallways be safe?
To support social distancing the hallways will be designated as one way. Hallways and stairwells will be labeled to direct students with traveling in one direction. Hallways that are unable to be deemed one way will be divided using partitions.

• How often will the bathrooms be cleaned?
Bathrooms will be cleaned between classes. To avoid gathering in bathrooms and allow for cleaning, students will not be able to use the bathrooms between classes.

More information on Towson High School’s re-opening plan will be shared soon. Please be sure to look out for emails, messages, and future newsletters for weekly updates and tips for preparing for the re-opening of schools.
The Towson High School Theatre Program is proud to announce the opening of our first virtual production!

Link to the THS Production of The Bullying Collection

Friday, January 29 - Sunday, January 31

FREE Streaming for 72 Hours!

More than forty THS students have been involved in the creation of a trio of student-directed, student-produced, and student-led short plays from The Bullying Collection. These plays range from the tragic to the co-medic, but they all reveal a new perspective on a common problem.

The show will stream exclusively on Broadway On Demand Friday, January 29 through Sunday, January 31. You can stream the show for free at any point during that 72-hour period. Share the link with your friends and family! After this weekend, the show will no longer be available for viewing, so catch it while you can!

Thank you so much for your continued support & enjoy the show!

In Baltimore County, we are fortunate to have access to Naviance. Naviance is a website that helps our students plan for careers and college. The school counseling office encourages all of our students to begin thinking about colleges and careers early in high school. We would like all of our students to use this valuable tool as they begin to prepare for their future.

Once students log on to the site, they should familiarize themselves with the many great features available to them. Students can take a career interest inventory and a personality test that will match them with careers and colleges. Students can also search for colleges based on many categories, including location, athletic interests and majors. There is a wealth of scholarship information available as well.

Each student has several tasks that need to be completed on Naviance. Students should click on the ‘my planner’ link at the top of the screen and click on ‘tasks’. Refer to the ‘Tasks You Need to Work On’. These tasks involve students setting goals and completing surveys on Naviance to help them think about where they would like to attend college and their future. The school counseling office monitors students’ progress with the tasks and can provide feedback to students.

All of the counselors at Towson High School are able to help students and parents with the website. I encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or if we can help you with the many features on Naviance. We wish you a successful rest of the year!
Junior College Info Session

April 15

3:00—4:00 pm

Juniors and parents/guardians are invited to join us on April 15th for our virtual Junior College Info Session from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. We will discuss how to research colleges, application types and deadlines, essay writing and testing. We will also discuss how the pandemic has changed the college admissions process. A GoogleMeet link will be emailed to students and parents the day of the event and posted on the Grade 11 THS School Counseling Schoology page.

Representatives from the following colleges will join us:

- University of Maryland, College Park
- Johns Hopkins University
- Morgan State University
- Stevenson University
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
What to Expect When You Return to the School Building: Health Suite Edition!

Things look very different in this COVID world we’re living in right now. And who knows when we will ever get back to ‘normal,’ or what the ‘new normal’ will look like. Things are also going to look a little different when you return to the school.

Rest assured, our re-opening planning team at Towson High School is working diligently to establish protocols and procedures to keep students and staff safe, aligning with the BCPS re-opening plan. Mitigation Strategies will be strictly enforced according to CDC guidance and the BCPS Reopening Plan.

CDC has identified five key mitigation practices that schools should use to slow the spread:

1. Consistent and correct use of face coverings.
2. Social distancing to the extent possible.
3. Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
4. Cleaning and disinfecting.
5. Contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department.

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**DO choose masks that**

- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
- Completely cover your nose and mouth
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don’t have gaps
- Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

**DO NOT choose masks that**

- Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl
- Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape
- Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators
KEEP YOUR STUDENT HOME IF THEY ARE NOT FEELING WELL!

You will be asked to check for symptoms daily before sending your student to school. If they have any symptoms, they must stay home from school until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.

In addition, if they have been a close contact of a positive case, have tested positive themselves, or are awaiting test results, they should stay home.

You will be provided with the Daily Home Screening for Students & Staff checklist prior to your student’s return, and can access the link on bcps.org: https://scs.bcps.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=66710107
Daily Home Screening for Students & Staff

Please check for the following symptoms every morning before coming to school. If ‘YES’ to any of the following please stay home from school until symptom free for 24 hours and follow up with your health care provider.

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat, congestion or runny nose
- New onset or worsening of cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste and or smell
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Muscle pain, chills or extreme tiredness
- New or severe headache

- Have you had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) in the last 14 days?
  If ‘YES’, you must stay home. Consult with your health care provider about testing and contact the School Nurse for more information.

- Are you waiting to get tested or waiting for COVID-19 test results?
  If ‘YES’ you must stay home until notified of test results regardless of reason for test.

- Have you tested positive for COVID-19?
  If ‘YES’, you must stay home, notify your school nurse/supervisor, and consult your healthcare provider.

QUESTIONS? Please contact your School Nurse
Here is another great tool for determining if your child should report to in-person learning:

For more information and FAQs, go to bcps.org and select COVID-19 Info.

Here you will find links to lots of helpful info:

**For Families and Staff**

- [Health Metrics](#)
- [How BCPS Is Protecting Students and Staff](#)
- [Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool](#)
- [Face Coverings FAQ](#)
- [New! Cleaning and Disinfecting FAQ](#)
- [Social Distancing FAQ](#)
- [Contact Tracing](#)
- [Testing FAQ](#)

And more resources in the Parent University Info Center, including the full reopening plan:

**Parent University InfoCenter**

*Find your topic in the Reopening Plan*

- Family Choice
- Hybrid Learning
- Virtual Learning
RESPONSE TO STUDENT ILLNESS:

Please be aware that any student who is not feeling well will be assessed by the School Nurse. If the student has symptoms of COVID-Like Illness (CLI), they will be isolated in the health suite and the parent will be contacted to pick up as soon as possible.

Students with any of the symptoms of illness noted on the screening checklist will also be sent home and asked to contact their healthcare provider. If their symptoms are not consistent with CLI, they still must stay home from school until symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours. If your child is sent home due to illness, you are advised to contact their healthcare provider. The provider may be able to identify another cause of your child’s symptoms, such as Strep throat or Flu, in which case the provider may provide documentation of the diagnosis and clearance date for the student to return to school.

If you believe the cause of your student’s illness is a chronic health condition, such as seasonal allergies or migraine headache, they may return to school with documentation from their healthcare provider as well.

MAKE A PLAN FOR PICKING UP YOUR CHILD DURING THE SCHOOL DAY!

As you can see, students and staff will be staying home, or will be sent home this year for any signs or symptoms of illness that cannot be determined to be caused by a chronic health condition or other acute disease diagnosis. Therefore, it is vital that you make a plan for how your child will be picked up from school quickly if you are contacted by the School Nurse. Please ensure you have a plan in place and identify additional persons who may pick up your child.

Additionally, students and staff identified as a close contact with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID will be sent home to quarantine.

The School Nurse will provide you with clear instructions regarding isolation or quarantine if your child is sent home due to illness or close contact.

And always, notify the School Nurse if your child tests positive for COVID, is a close contact of someone who tested positive, and anytime you have questions or concerns!

Nurse Laura Russo, lrusso2@bcps.org; 443-809-4261

Emails and voicemails will be responded to as soon as possible!
Towson High School
Re-Entry Team

Members of the Towson High School Re-Entry Team are working diligently to develop a practical and safe plan for students to re-enter the building on the designated dates this upcoming March. Each member has been assigned to work in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Scheduling
- Transportation
- Class Procedures & Protocol
- Common Areas (hallways, bathrooms, etc.)
- Health & Safety
- Cafeteria
- Communication
- Instruction & Technology
- 9th Grade Transition
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Each focus group meets several times a week and attends a weekly Re-Entry Team Meeting to share their groups’ progress. Information will continue to be discussed with our Instructional Leadership and Faculty Council Teams throughout the process. Once plans are finalized, we will share a video and description of the Re-entry Plan components (E.g. hallway transitions, bathroom use, cafeteria use ETC.) We are confident that our team will be able to bring our students back safely and successfully into the schoolhouse. Towson High School Admin Team would like to thank the members of our Re-Entry Team for their dedication and efforts.

Team Members:

Kim Culbertson
Felicia Schrader
Michelle Smith
Mary Williams
Carly Raley
John Stevens
Cindy Greenberg
Rachel Valsing
Glen Lane
Simon Briggs
Lauren Hanley
Laura Russo
Julie Kromsky
Erin Hancock
Jenn Yelton
Scott Olson
Brad Eastham
Sarah Carr
Tony Cardano
Bruce Ickes
Kirsten Surak
Donna Lauten
Tom Blair
Course Registration
2021-2022

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students need to register for courses for the 2021-2022 school year at Towson High School using the online FOCUS Student Portal by Friday, February 26th. The FOCUS Student Portal is accessible to students 24-7, so students are able to register at any time for their courses between now and February 26th.

To ensure that students are able to successfully register online for their 2021-2022 courses, please use the attached step-by-step directions and the Academic Planning materials on our website which can be accessed using this link, https://towsonhs.bcps.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=244436&pageId=66716261, or by visiting our website, https://towsonhs.bcps.org, and selecting ‘Academic Planning 2021-2022’ under ‘Announcements’ on the homepage.

The academic planning materials on our website include:

- Step-by-step written directions for using the FOCUS Student Portal to register for courses.
- Step-by-step video directions for using the FOCUS Student Portal to register for courses.
- Grade-level presentations to learn about courses and graduation requirements that are specific to students’ grade level next year.
- Department-based presentations and handouts to further explore our course offerings and course progressions.
- Grade-level course planning guides to assist in course selection.
- Contact information for our School Counselors and Department Chairs who are available to answer specific academic planning questions.
- A link to request a 1-1 appointment with School Counselors.
- A link to the Course Request Correction form.

School Counselors will be available throughout the registration window to meet with students via two options. First, students can informally drop-in to the School Counseling Registration Google Meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:00AM to 9:00AM, 10:50AM to 12:00 PM, and 2:00PM to 3:00PM; and on Wednesdays from 8:00AM to 9:00AM and 2:00PM to 3:00PM. The Google Meet join code for these drop-in sessions is THSCounseling1. Second, students can schedule a 1-1 appointment with their school counselor using the request link on our Academic Planning website (see link above).

Academic planning and student registration are pivotal processes in helping us to achieve our vision of preparing our students to become lifelong learners and productive global citizens, and we thank you for partnering with us in these processes.
Towson Generals 2021

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Go online to https://towsongenerals21.itemorder.com/
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: Sunday February 28th, 2021 (11:59pm EST)

Gildan Dryblend 50 Cotton/50 Poly T-Shirt 8000 (S) SENIORS LOGO
Gildan Dryblend 50 Cotton/50 Poly Long Sleeve T-Shirt 8400 (S) SENIORS LOGO
Jerzees NuBlend Crewneck Sweatshirt 562M (S) SENIORS LOGO
Gildan Dryblend Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt 12500 (S) SENIORS LOGO

Next Level Unisex Pullover Hood 9303 (S) SENIORS LOGO
District Perfect Tri Tee DM130 (S) T STAR LOGO
Gildan Dryblend Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt 12500 (S) T STAR LOGO
District Perfect Tri Long Sleeve Tee DM132 (S) T STAR LOGO

Questions?
Rick Krivda
4102480068
Rk rivda@timeoutforsports.net
http://www.timeoutforsports.net/
Class of 2024 Apparel Sale!

Online Store Launch: December 18th

Online Store Close: January 10th

Support your Class of 2024 and elevate your closet with some new THS gear! Great for holiday gifts and these cold winter days!

Items will be available for shipment to your home or pick up at the Time Out for Sports warehouse (9716 Belair Road, Nottingham MD.)

Get yours Now!
NEED TUTORING FOR ANY SUBJECT?
COME TO...

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY TUTORING!

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 3-4PM
STARTING OCT. 23RD

GOOGLE MEETS CODE: THSNHS2020TUTOR
Every Tuesday & Thursday! From 2:15-3:15

SNHS TUTORING!

Do you need help with any science class?
Sign up for Science National Honor Society tutoring!

Meeting code: thssnhstutoring

Email or talk to your science teacher to have them sign you up!
Students in Mrs. Schrader's Living Systems Class created models of two related body systems to describe the functions and structures of each. They investigated each system's role in maintaining homeostasis. Check out a few examples here!
Virtual THS Senior Talent Show!

Live-streamed on Thursday, March 25th

SEND IN VIDEOS OF YOUR TALENT BEFORE MARCH 12 TO CDAMON@BCPS.ORG.

Videos should be no longer than 5 minutes in length
If you haven’t yet uploaded your student’s portrait for the yearbook, please visit the yearbook page on the Towson High website as soon as possible. You will also find information on how to place orders for this year’s yearbook or for senior ads. Remember that if you place an order for a senior yearbook, you will get free shipping on your order!
Attention Towson Students & Parents
Graduation Ordering Time!

Greetings parents! We aren’t able to get into school this year due to Covid, but we have set up everything online for you to order and purchase your graduation materials and announcements!

ORDER TODAY!
To order other graduation products—go to www.balfour.com
Catalog available HERE

Questions??
randy.bowers@balfour-rep.com
32 WEST ROAD, TOWSON, 21204
Senior Group
Please make sure that you are signed up for the Senior group on Schoology. We frequently post updates on colleges and scholarships and there is important information in the Resources folder. The Senior group is called “Grade 12 THS School Counseling.” If you need information on accessing the group, please contact Ms. Wright at swright7@bcps.org.

FERPA
Please complete the FERPA waiver form so that we can send out your transcripts to colleges. The FERPA waiver form is available on the Grade 12 THS School Counseling Schoology page. Click on the ‘Resources’ folder and click on the ‘FERPA waiver form’ folder. When complete, send your FERPA form to Ms. Wright at swright7@bcps.org.

College Visits
Colleges are virtually visiting Towson most days of the week. Please make sure to check Naviance regularly for college visit updates. Sign on to BCPS ONE, click on the Naviance button, click on Colleges, scroll down to College Visits.

Ms. Wright and Mr. Briggs are available on Wednesday afternoon for Seniors to drop into our College Google Meet group. Seniors can stop by and ask a question and receive support with their college applications. Check the Grade 12 THS School Counseling Schoology group for information about meeting times and the room name.

We have a Senior sign-up sheet that is available on Schoology should you need to meet with your counselor individually regarding your college applications.

We are here to help and support you! Please reach out to us if you have any questions.
Do you have questions about how to use Navi-
ance to request transcripts and letters of recom-
mandation? Please check out this Powerpoint
presented by our College Counselor, Mrs.
Wright, that will answer many of your ques-
tions.

https://bcpscloud-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/swright7_bcps_org/
EdgifjeS_HpBu4IeotfwSgEBJ-ZUMZIEg-FiOSwbYvvCMQ

We know that many of you have additional questions around Naviance and
college applications. The School Counseling Team want you to know that
we’re here for you!

We will host a Google Meet Session each Wednesday at 1.30pm-2pm for Sen-
ior college help. To access the room go to thsseniorcollegecounseling

Also, colleges will be visiting Towson High School virtually this fall to meet
with our Seniors. We will send out information about college visits on Navi-
ance and Schoology.

The School Counseling Team
Ms. Wright has created a “senior/junior college newsletter” on Smore with lots of links and info for seniors and juniors.

This is a great resource for the college application process and support. Check it out!

Here is the link: https://www.smore.com/gw8p2
**Mid-year transcripts are now available**

We are only sending mid-year transcripts for those students who complete the request form.

Many colleges and universities do not require mid-year transcripts. Check with the admissions office of your college BEFORE completing the form. Only add colleges that require a mid-year transcript.

**Link to access the form:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5cHckSrex67qG64705oX-FzHRAdKjDqscMFgBz-kvHcAlkQ/viewform
UPCOMING EVENTS

March, 2021

15  FALS students return to the building
22  9th Graders return to the building
25  Maryland Day
26  Spring Break Begins at the end of the School Day

April, 2021

5   State Mandated Holiday - Schools & Offices Closed
6   Schools Reopen - Grades 10-12 return to the building
16  Third Marking Period Ends - High Schools in Session Full Day
29  Report Cards Distributed