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 the Science Department for their consistent efforts to provide engaging instruction and recognize students.

★ STARS to Jamie Ridgely for his efforts to involve students with valuable conversations that allow for varied perspectives.

★ STARS to Svetlana Wright for her creation of a college newsletter.

★ STARS to Courtney Jacobs for creating the information about historically black colleges and universities.

★ STARS to Catherine Damon, Jackie Flynn, Lauren Hanley, and Nick Meyers for their participation in leadership development.

★ STARS to Cindy Greenberg and Felicia Schrader for their participation in professional development sessions.

★ STARS to John Stevens, Bruce Ickes, and Kim Culbertson for devoting efforts and time to providing teacher resources.

★ STARS to Justin Nash for his communication and efforts to support students during this time.
Towson High School Athletic Department

Towson High School Athletics

The past few months have brought many challenges for our program, and programs everywhere. As a result of the unprecedented situation, we are offering the opportunity for our student athletes to build relationships with our coaches and fellow teammates virtually for the first semester of the school year. Each of the three seasons that will occur during the first virtual semester, will be conducted utilizing Schoology and various integrated platforms, such as Google Meets. Coaches will have the opportunity to meet prospective student-athletes, build relationships, support classroom achievement, structure mentor groups, all while conducting/structuring conditioning and skill development activities.

The 1st semester virtual coaching season for Fall sports will end on October 23rd, and Winter virtual coaching will begin on October 26th. The online platform for registration is now open for the winter and spring sports. The Fall registration has been left open for students who didn’t sign-up for virtual coaching but still want to participate in fall sports 2nd semester. Virtual meeting times will vary slightly for each sport, but will occur after the scheduled school day, in any combination of days between Monday-Friday, per the discretion of each Head Coach. The first meeting dates and times for winter sports will be published on our website: www.towsonathletics.digitalsports.com on 10/23/20. Below you’ll find the Varsity Head Coaches of each program. Virtual groups will not be divided by JV and Varsity teams. Other coaches will participate in the virtual sessions; however, these coaches will be your point of contact for the fall, winter and spring virtual seasons.

Students will need to be registered and have an updated physical in order to participate in the virtual coaching during the first semester (calendar below). Students signed-up for 1st semester virtual coaching are not required to sign-up again for the 2nd semester competition season. First semester registration will carry-over into the 2nd semester. In order to help families plan, please follow the calendar below as the semesters will be divided into each of the three athletic seasons. This allows student athletes the opportunity to participate in one or all seasons without having to choose.


**Winter Sports:** [https://app.formreleaf.com/organizations/towson-high-school/programs/2020-fallsports-registrationcopy-6d1841f72-1834-488f-80d0-10a1e8cc4203](https://app.formreleaf.com/organizations/towson-high-school/programs/2020-fallsports-registrationcopy-6d1841f72-1834-488f-80d0-10a1e8cc4203)

**Spring Sports:** [https://app.formreleaf.com/organizations/towson-high-school/programs/2020-fallsports-registrationcopy-6292d6f10-e57c-4544-a7a8-03f8b1d0df22](https://app.formreleaf.com/organizations/towson-high-school/programs/2020-fallsports-registrationcopy-6292d6f10-e57c-4544-a7a8-03f8b1d0df22)
The **Physical Exam** forms which are still required, are now slightly different. The new form includes an additional COVID-19 page. Please scan your forms and send them to Justin Nash, at jnash3@bcps.org. The updated form can be found by clicking on the following link: [https://www.mpssaa.org/assets/1/6/Physical_Evaluation_Form.pdf](https://www.mpssaa.org/assets/1/6/Physical_Evaluation_Form.pdf)

Following the completion of the virtual period, and with the start of in-person instruction and in-person athletics, standard **academic eligibility protocols** will be followed. That will mean that report cards distributed on February 11, 2021 will impact eligibility. In order for students to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, the quarter grades that are received prior to the start of that season must demonstrate a minimum GPA of 2.0 (unweighted) and no more than one ‘E’. A student who does not meet either of those standards, or both, shall be ineligible until the next sport season, given that there is an opportunity with another quarter grade to re-establish eligibility.

In addition to virtual coaching, we have several other opportunities for our student-athletes to stay engaged. The Baltimore County Office of Athletics will be providing several virtual workshop opportunities for our student athletes. These opportunities will take place once a month and will be provided to the students at no cost. The workshops will provide opportunities for student athletes to discuss issues that are directly related to being a student-athlete. Information on the workshops can be found by joining the Athletic Department Schoology group using the code, **W7FFJ-BFMSP**. In addition to these workshops, students will be able to join our Student-Athletes Leadership Team (SALT). SALT is designed for student-athletes to teach and improve leadership skills, while helping to enhance energy and enthusiasm into Towson High School Athletics. Members will help coordinate guest speakers, spirit events, volunteer opportunities, fundraisers, and service-learning opportunities. Our members will discuss various topics that impact student athletes today and will provide a forum for student athletes to voice suggestions on how to enhance the overall athletic experience for all our student athletes at Towson High School. Students can get updated information by joining the SALT, using the code **MD7Q-WDZP-HHJP5**.

During these challenging times, it has become more difficult to raise the needed funds for our sports programs. We are fortunate to have an active Booster Club who helps to raise funds for our student-athletes. They raise money through membership dues, operating the concessions stand, and through events such as the annual Bull and Oyster Roast. THS Sports Boosters has led capital improvement campaigns – including a new scoreboard, the turf field, and stadium bleachers expansion (2019) – and funds the purchase of new uniforms, team equipment and game supplies, student-athlete recognition awards, and even scholarships for two graduating seniors. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the school going virtual our Sports Booster Club had to cancel their Annual Bull and Oyster Roast. In order to help make up for the lost revenue this year, they’re asking for a donation of $25 (or more) to help offset the cost of the above expenses. Please click on the link below if you would like to become a member and donate. Please contact Matt Parry at matthewparry45@hotmail.com if you have any questions about membership.
Booster Club Membership Link: [https://towsonhighsportsboosters.com/membership](https://towsonhighsportsboosters.com/membership)/Without having the ability to sell spirit wear in person, I’m sure many of our families are still looking for some new Towson gear, especially with the holiday’s right around the corner. You can access our online store by going to [https://www.rokitwear.com/school/8027-towson-high-school](https://www.rokitwear.com/school/8027-towson-high-school).

We look forward to continuing to offer an exceptional program, that fosters growth for our student-athletes on the field, in the classroom, and as citizens in our community. If there are questions, concerns, or feedback that you feel you should share, please contact the Athletic Director Justin Nash at jnash3@bcps.org.

**Virtual Seasons (1st Semester)**
Fall: In progress and will end October 23rd
Winter: October 26\textsuperscript{th} - December 11\textsuperscript{th}
Spring: December 14\textsuperscript{th} - January 29\textsuperscript{th}

**In Person Sports (2nd Semester)**
Winter Sports: February 1\textsuperscript{st} - March 27\textsuperscript{th}
Fall Sports: March 15\textsuperscript{th} - May 8\textsuperscript{th}
Spring Sports: April 16\textsuperscript{th} - June 19\textsuperscript{th}

**Important Contact Information:**
Athletic Director Justin Nash jnash3@bcps.org

**Fall Sports**
Boys Soccer, Randy Dase rdase@bcps.org
Girls Soccer, Lauren Hanley lhanley@bcps.org
Football, Kelly Bryant kelly.coley.bryant@gmail.com
Field Hockey, Natalie Szopo nzsopo@bcps.org
Golf, Tom Blair tblair@bcps.org
Cheer, Courtiney Jacobs kjacobs@bcps.org
Cross Country, Gil Stange gstange@bcps.org
Volleyball, Sarah Nugent snugent@bcps.org
Badminton, Steven Page stevenmhpage@gmail.com
Allied Soccer, Lindsay Karsos lkarsos@bcps.org
**Winter Sports**

Boys Basketball, Tim Sinkler bmore_sink@yahoo.com

Girls Basketball, Tim Gavin tgavin2@bcps.org

Wrestling, Phil Simmonds pjsimmonds@icloud.com

Indoor Track & Field, Gil Stange gstange@bcps.org

Winter Cheerleading, Courtiney Jacobs kjacobs@bcps.org

Winter Allied Sports, Blair Muneses bmuneses@bcps.org

**Spring Sports**

Baseball, Shawn Tormey stormey@bcps.org

Softball, Jon Salvino jsalvino@bcps.org

Boys Lacrosse, Rick Brocato coachbroc@gmail.com

Girls Lacrosse, Jamie Giffuni jamie.giffuni@gmail.com

Tennis, Dan Miller dmill16@bcps.org

Outdoor Track & Field, Gil Stange gstange@bcps.org

Spring Cheerleading, Courtiney Jacobs kjacobs@bcps.org

Allied Softball, Lindsay Karsos lkarsos@bcps.org

**Best ways to get updates for Towson High Athletics**

Department Website: www.towsonathletic.digitalsports.com

Twitter: @TowsonHSsports

Instagram: towsongenerals
What is a HBCU? Historically Black Colleges and Universities are institutions of higher education in the United States. HBCUs play a critical role in ensuring that African Americans and students of all races receive a quality education. They carry a proud legacy by offering first-rate educations, unique learning environments and strong alumni support. All of the nation’s more than 100 HBCUs share the belief that everyone deserves access to a quality education, and for more than 150 years, HBCUs have successfully educated students of color.

BCPS 4th Annual HBCU College Fair will be virtual this year. The College Fair will take place on November 11, 2020 from 9am to 5pm. You must complete your application on The Common Black College App before attending the college fair. The website is commonblackcollegeapp.com. The hashtag for the day will be #HBCUMade! This is an event you don’t want to miss!

In order to register for the HBCU Fair please:

1. Log in to your Naviance account via BCPSOne
2. Click on "Colleges" in the top right corner
3. Select "Research Colleges" from the dropdown
4. Select "College Visits" from the dropdown
5. Scroll down to November 11th and click "Register" on the right!

You are now registered for the HBCU Virtual Fair. Please remember to submit your applications to all colleges you’re interested in by October 28th.
Among a number of other important health observances, October is designated as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month and National Bullying Prevention Month, as well as LGBTQ History Month.

Coronavirus creates new stressors for students and families that can impact emotional well-being and contribute to substance abuse. Having to distance from friends and family, changing the normal routines of school and activities, dealing with a new learning environment, and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can have a serious impact on emotional and physical health.

**Substance Abuse:**

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data from 2019 shows a decline in substance use among high schoolers in recent years, however substance use rates remain high. In addition, risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 may be increased. Smoking or vaping can cause inflammation and damage to lungs and increase risk of infection. Alcohol consumption is not protective, but rather increases health risks. Drug abuse increases risk of serious complications from COVID-19 infection, affecting lungs and cardiovascular system.

- In the 2019 YRBS, 29.2% of high schoolers reported current alcohol use
- 21.7% reported current marijuana use
- 13.7% reported current binge drinking
- 7.2% reported current prescription opioid use
- In 2018, 7,000 adolescents used heroin for the first time

Parents should be aware of potential signs of substance abuse, including: extreme mood swings; isolation within the home (such as spending extended periods of time in room with no personal contact), as well as social and emotional isolation; unusual smells or strong odors that might be used to ‘cover-up’ substance smell, such as excessive air freshener or perfume; insistence on seeing friends outside the home while under quarantine or isolation.

**Bullying:**

While closed school buildings and decreased interactions with peers can result in a decrease in physical, verbal and social bullying, electronic bullying remains a serious issue. More than 20% of high schoolers report being bullied, with more than 1 in 6 bullied electronically. Certain groups experience more bullying than others. Of high schoolers who report being bullied, rates differ based on gender identity and sexual orientation, sex, and race, with the following incidence reported:

- 70% of LGBTQ verbally; 28.9% physically; 48.7% cyberbullying
- 23% of White students
- 23% of Black students
• 16% of Hispanic students
• 7% of Asian students
• Rates among male vs. female students varies by type of bullying, with more males being physically bullied, and more females reporting exclusion and rumor-related bullying

LGBTQ History Month:
On October 11th, National Coming Out Day celebrated lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people’s coming out experiences and journeys. In addition to the statistics above, LGBTQ youth experience more violence victimization and suicide risk than heterosexuals.

Effects of COVID-19
Adolescence is already a challenging time, and a period of life when most mental health conditions will develop. School closure, loss of normal routine, loss of social interactions, jobs, and family impacts may contribute to increased stress and anxiety and other mental health issues. Boredom resulting from the lack of a regular school schedule and extracurricular activities, and not being able to spend time with friends, can be a contributing factors for substance abuse. While less time with peers may reduce access to substances, access to substances at home is also a significant risk factor for abuse. Increased mental health issues and substance use among adults during the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to more access in homes, as well as more relaxed rules around teen use.

The good news is that research shows more time spent with parents and more communication benefits adolescents, so this period of increased time at home can be an opportunity to increase family time.

Positive Actions & Activities
Increased sharing of family meals and activities may be one a positive impact of social distancing, remote school and working from home! Creating structure is important, and this time can be a great opportunity to establish a routine that includes family activities and increased communication. Eating well, maintaining a regular sleep schedule and exercising can help reduce stress. Encourage teens to get out of their bedrooms, engage with family, and spend some time outside every day.

Unfortunately, the endless news media around COVID-19 can increase anxieties, but getting the facts and avoiding exposure to rumors and misinformation can help. Teens, and adults, should minimize exposure to news that causes them to feel distressed. Minimizing amount of time spent reading or watching news sources and selecting information only from health authorities such as The World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health can help control fears.
There are numerous great resources for teens & families dealing with life during the pandemic.

➢ For teens dealing with bullying: https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/get-help-now
➢ CONTACT NURSE RUSSO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE LGBTQ CLUB THIS YEAR! lrusso2@bcps.org

And We Can All Show Our Support:

❖ **Spirit Day**: October 20th - a day millions wear purple in a stand against bullying and to show their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth
❖ **Unity Day 2020**: October 21st - wear and share orange to show that we are together against bullying, and united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion
❖ Post your photos wearing purple & orange to your social media accounts and tag them with #SpiritDay and #UnityDay2020
❖ Take the Pledge, download resources, spread the word at: https://www.glaad.org/spiritday
❖ Download free social media images from https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/ to share online and promote Unity Day

References & Resources
http://getsmartdfc.com/teen-substance-use-covid-19/
https://malatytherapy.com/2020/05/13/substance-abuse-issues-during-covid-19/
https://news.fiu.edu/2020/risk-of-teen-substance-use-may-increase-while-social-distancing
https://news.fiu.edu/2020/risk-of-teen-substance-use-may-increase-while-social-distancing
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/index.htm
https://www.glaad.org/spiritday#what
https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(20)30412-2/fulltext
https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/
https://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/stats.asp
https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/mental-health-considerations.pdf
https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/mental-health-considerations.pdf
AQUATICS

Students in Mrs. Schrader’s Living Systems Class completed a virtual lab in order to investigate the impact of Ethanol on the heart rate of Daphnia. Students calculated the heart rate of Daphnia in water and then Daphnia in ethanol in order to complete a lab report!
Students in Earth Systems classes created a presentation for Stoneleigh Elementary students to teach them about the importance of the upcoming Artemis Missions. Some highlights of the mission include sending the first women to the moon and setting up on the moon for an extended stay to further our scientific knowledge.

Mohamed Ibrahim

Jason Conneally

Addison Childress
Earth Systems students recently completed Unit 1: Space! Students evaluated the evidence for the formation and history of the universe, explored the power and properties of stars, and modeled the movement of orbiting objects.

Throughout this unit, students were frequently confronted with the essential question: Why should we invest in space travel and research? Currently, 0.5% of the national budget is spent on this research. While the general public may be skeptical of the space program’s significance, these students were given the tools to argue why such research is essential to the present and future of society.

The Culminating Event challenged students to argue the importance of NASA’s upcoming lunar mission, the Artemis Mission. This mission, a global partnership, will land the first woman on the moon. Students chose one of three options to demonstrate the importance of the mission.

Option #1: Social Media Scavenger Hunt.
Create a scavenger hunt for a member of the general public to discover more information related to the purpose, scope, and importance of the Artemis Mission.
Option #2: Social Media Marketing Campaign
Create social media posts that explain the purpose, scope, and importance of the mission in order to market the Artemis Mission to the general public.

Option #3: Stoneleigh Elementary Presentation
Design a presentation that would be delivered to elementary students to explain the purpose, scope, and importance of the Artemis mission.
The following students are recognized by the Science Department for their hard-work, participation and collaboration with their peers and teachers.

Congratulations!!!

**Week of October 5, 2020 through October 14, 2020**

- Nicholas Jamette Collado..............................................................Living Systems (Schrader)
- Breanna Wilson ..................................................................................Living Systems (Schrader)
- Ralph Oliver Gaspay ............................................................................Living Systems (Schrader)
- Isabella Hammer ..................................................................................Living Systems (Damon)
- Molly White ..........................................................................................Aquatics, Pd 3A (Damon)
- Emmy Demshak-Geddes .....................................................................Aquatics, Pd 3A (Damon)
- Maura Griffin ......................................................................................Aquatics, Pd 4A (Damon)
- Helene Gleason ...................................................................................Aquatics Pd 4A (Damon)
- Perry Donovan ..................................................................................AP Environmental Science, Pd 1A (West)
- Kenny Frasier .....................................................................................AP Environmental Science, Pd. 1A (West)
- Natalie Gimigmani ..............................................................................AP Environmental Science, Pd. 1A (West)
- Nathan Hochrin ..................................................................................AP Environmental Science, Pd. 1A (West)
- Kajaun Pugh ......................................................................................AP Environmental Science, Pd. 1A (West)
Holly Thornburg ........................................ AP Environmental Science, Pd. 1A (West)
Francesco Tomassetti .................................................. GT Earth, 3A (McCusker)
Brydon Patschie ................................................................. Hon. Earth 1A (McCusker)
Abigail Carter ................................................................. GT Earth, 2A (McCusker)
Colin Poag ................................................................. AP Physics I, 4A (Kemper)
Youssef Tewala ................................................................. AP Physics I, 4A (Kemper)
Food Insecurity For our Students and Families

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ENOUGH FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER – MS. YELTON – JYELTON@BCPS.ORG

ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER MEALS ARE DISTRIBUTED AT THE AIGBURTH ENTRANCE EACH MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY FROM 11-1PM. FOR A FULL LIST OF MEAL SITES: 
https://www.bcps.org/system/coronavirus/Meal_Sites.pdf
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.

Senior portraits will take place in November this year. The dates are as follows:

- Monday, November 16th
- Thursday, November 19th
- Friday, November 20th

Students are to contact Life Touch at 410-644-7700 to schedule. The portraits are not scheduled by school-based personnel.
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/farc4
Do you have questions about how to use Naviance to request transcripts and letters of recommendation? Please check out this Powerpoint presented by our College Counselor, Mrs. Wright, that will answer many of your questions.

https://bcpscloud-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/swright7_bcps_org/EdgifjeS_HpBu4IeotfwSgEBJ-ZUMZlEg-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 Senior 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 Naviance and Schoology.

The School Counseling Team
UPCOMING EVENTS

November, 2020

3        Election Day - Schools and Offices Closed
11       Veterans Day
13       First Marking Period Ends
16, 19, 20 Senior Portraits (Contact Life Touch to make an appointment)**
16-20    American Education Week
26-27    Thanksgiving Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed
30       Report Cards Distributed

**Students are to contact Life Touch at 410-644-7700 to schedule. The portraits are not scheduled by school-based personnel.