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The Towson Pride

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 dllauren@bcps.org. Help us recognize the outstanding efforts of our students and staff.

STARS to Faya, Randi Jones, and Gil Stange for their collaboration and professionalism as they support students and the members of their department.

STARS to Noah Rich for assuming leadership with the Maryland General Assembly Student Page Program.

STARS to Justin Nash, THS Athletic Director on his nomination for Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association District 6 Athletic Director of the Year Award.

STARS to Ms. Parsons, a dedicated professional that always provides students with support and quality instruction. We wish her the best with her family.

STARS to Jenna Zava for assisting colleagues with challenges.

STARS to Cyndi Greenberg and Felicia Schrader for attending additional training for the benefit of our instructional staff.

STARS to the Chen family for bringing snacks for the staff to enjoy while they were doing computer re-imaging of student devices.

STARS to Felicia Schrader and the teachers in the Science Department for always submitting great information for the newsletter.

STARS to Simon Briggs, Nicole Bridges, Kim Culbertson, Charlene DiMino, Brad Eastham, Bruce Ickes, Julie Kromsky, Donna Lauten, Nick Meyers, Scott Olson, Joanne Pachilis, Iris Piekarz, Debbie Richmond, Michelle Smith, John Stevens, Rachel Valsing, and Mary Williams for their efforts with reimaging student devices.

STARS to Centralized personnel Alex Bildstein, Nick Smith, Natalie Crist, Sherri Fischer, Ellen Galvez, Shane Jenkins, Anthony Marconi, Michael O’Connor, and Sonia Synkowski for assisting Towson High School with device reimaging.

STARS to Jackie Flynn for establishing a safe and supportive environment for students.

STARS to Lauren Hanley and the leaders of the One Love Club for their efforts in the community.

STARS to our staff that provided a safe space for students during this time in history.

STARS to Hannah Stoitckov for her dedication and efforts.

STARS to the leaders of the SGA for their efforts to host events during the remote learning period.

STARS to Claire Fluharty for her efforts with the Yearbook.

STARS to the government teaching team - Jeffrey Carter, Ed
Welcome 2021! While many of us are happy to put 2020 behind us, our battle with COVID-19 is far from over. There is a new strain of the virus now circulating in the U.S. that is believed to be even more contagious. In addition, we’ve learned that more than half of COVID cases are likely spread by people who do not have any symptoms.6

**This is why it continues to be so important to wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance from others!**

What about the new vaccines?

When can I get vaccinated?

There are currently two vaccines authorized in the U.S.: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine

Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are also still under development.5

We are currently in phase 1a of vaccine distribution in Maryland. If you are a healthcare professional, and have not received information about the vaccine, you can register your practice though the Baltimore county registry at https://providerregistry.baltimorecountymd.gov
Find more information about vaccination:
covidLINK | Maryland Department of Health. https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/

Are these vaccines safe?
The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine have been granted Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Results of large clinical trials have demonstrated their safety and effectiveness.³
Can you get COVID from the vaccine?

**NO!** Neither of the authorized vaccines contain live virus, so they cannot make you sick with COVID-19.¹

These vaccines use mRNA, which gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless piece of a protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. Our immune system then recognizes the protein as foreign and begins building an immune response and making antibodies.⁷

Are there any side effects?

Side effects are normal signs of your immune system working to build protection against the virus. Side effects may be mild or may affect your ability to do normal activities for a few days.

Common side effects include:

- Pain or swelling in your arm
- Fever, chills, fatigue, headache

Some people may have more severe symptoms that feel like the flu, but they should resolve in a few days. Contact your healthcare provider if your side effects are worrying you or persist.⁸

Do I still have to wear my mask and take precautions after getting vaccinated?

Yes. We are still learning about COVID-19 and need to learn more about the vaccine protection in the general population. We need to continue to take precautions including covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

While clinical trials found the vaccines to be highly effective in preventing illness from COVID-19, they did not determine whether a vaccinated person can still carry and spread the virus.

Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.⁵

Can I get COVID after I’ve been vaccinated?

Yes, you can still get COVID-19 after you have been vaccinated. Both authorized vaccines require 2 shots in order for your body to build up immunity, which can take 1-2 weeks after receiving your second dose. You could be exposed to COVID just before or shortly after receiving your vaccine.
and still become ill. In addition, these vaccines are not 100% effective in all persons and there may be other individual factors that impact effectiveness.  

Should I get vaccine if already had COVID?

Yes. Re-infection after having COVID-19 is possible. We do not know how long someone might have natural immunity after recovering from COVID-19, and this will vary by individual. Because current evidence shows re-infection is unlikely within 90 days, people who have previously tested positive may wait until that period is complete to obtain their vaccine.

No one who is currently ill or under isolation should be vaccinated.  

For Additional Information and References:

- People without symptoms spread virus in more than half of cases, CDC model finds - The Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2021/01/07/covid-asymptomatic-spread/

Take time to practice self-care this winter!

Take breaks and find ways to safely connect with family and friends, like virtual get-togethers or outdoor, distanced and masked small gatherings. Be active – get outside when you can – take a hike! Take virtual fitness classes like yoga. Eat well and get enough sleep! Care for Yourself | CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/care-for-yourself.html
January is National Blood Donor Month!

COVID-19 has added new challenges to blood donation. Currently, there is a critical need for blood, as well as Convalescent Plasma. Consider donating today!

Why donate?

- 31,000 pints of blood are used every day;
- Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood product;
- It’s the blood already on the shelf that saves lives; and
- If all eligible individuals donated two or more times a year, blood shortages would be eliminated.

Spread the word by sharing the National Blood Donor Month challenge with your friends and family using hashtags #NationalBloodDonorMonth, #NBDM, #ADRP throughout January.

American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters. https://www.redcross.org/
In preparation for registration for the 2021-2022 school year, please review the academic planning materials that have been curated 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:
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
# End of January, 2021 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST 2 Weeks of January</th>
<th>Monday, January 18, 2021</th>
<th>Tuesday, January 19, 2021</th>
<th>Wednesday, January 20, 2021</th>
<th>Thursday, January 21, 2021</th>
<th>Friday, January 22, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td></td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td>Synchronous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLK OBSERVANCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAMS</td>
<td>PSAT</td>
<td>EXAMS Mods 3 and 4</td>
<td>MAKEUP- Regular Schedule</td>
<td>MAKEUP- Regular Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod 1 and 2</td>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Exam Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 1/25 Final Exams: Periods 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Tuesday 1/26</th>
<th>Wednesday 1/27 Final Exams: Periods 3 &amp; 4</th>
<th>Thursday 1/28 Final Exams: Make-Up Day</th>
<th>Friday 1/29 Final Exams: Make-Up Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00</td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:50</td>
<td>Period 1 Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Period 3 Final Exam</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:50</td>
<td>PSAT Day Asynchronous Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10-1:00</td>
<td>Period 2 Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Period 4 Final Exam</td>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10-2:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-3:00</td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td>Independent Work Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 reviewed Ecosystem Stability by reading a Case Study about the White-Tailed Deer Overpopulation. Students chose a stakeholder role including either a healthcare provider, logger, farmer, or hunter in order to explain how the population of deer would impact their industry. Students wrote a newsletter to inform the public. Check out their examples here!
In Ms. Karsos’ Earth Systems classes, students created Mitigation Design Boards to curb Heat Island Effect for Towson High School. Check out some of their work here!
Towson High’s chapter of the USA Bio-Olympiad prepares for national competition in the Open Qualifier! Students have been meeting weekly to collaborate and share content knowledge in preparation for the rapidly approaching competition.

Good Luck Generals!!
The Science Department would like to recognize the following students for their participation, collaboration, and hard-work in their science classes.

Congratulations!!!

**Week of January 4, 2021 to January 13, 2021**

Nick Dance .......................................................... Living Systems (Schrader)
Ralph Oliver Gaspay ................................................ Living Systems (Schrader)
Patrick Corbett ...................................................... Living Systems (McCullough)
Melody Miller ........................................................ Living Systems (McCullough)
Adam Daas ............................................................ Living Systems (McCullough)
Mansoor Johnson .................................................... Living Systems (McCullough)
Abigail Carter ......................................................... Living Systems (McCullough)
Emily Gunderson .................................................... GT Physics (Kemper)
Maya Mulligan ........................................................ GT Physics (Kemper)
Sydney Lavin .......................................................... GT Physics (Kemper)
Jake Del Viscio ......................................................... AA Living Systems (Damon)
Alexa Carlen ........................................................ AA Living Systems (Damon)
Sofia Pachuca ........................................................ AA Living Systems (Damon)
Nelson Boxwell ....................................................... AA Living Systems (Damon)
Abigail Dwyer ........................................................ AA Living Systems (Damon)
Reese Carpenter ...................................................... 3A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Eden Jenkins ........................................................... 3A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Stella Beernink ....................................................... 3A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Ahmed Ibrahim ....................................................... 3A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Kenny Shaw ............................................................ 3A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Madison Miller ................................................................. 4A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Traneil Stockhausen ......................................................... 4A Aquatic Science (Damon)
Youssef Tewala ............................................................... AP Bio (Drake)
Kayla Yup ................................---------------------------- AP Bio (Drake)
Nathaniel Yup ............................................................... AP Bio (Drake)
Alan Mao ................................................................. AP Bio (Drake)
Matthew Ensign ............................................................. AP Bio (Drake)
Dear Parents/Guardians of Underclassmen,

The yearbook staff would like to make certain that your student/s are represented with a photo portrait in their class section of the yearbook. We are asking for your help in making this possible.

Please submit a portrait of your student HERE by February 1, 2021. This photo may be taken with a camera or a smartphone and uploaded to the Google Form.

Please follow these guidelines for appropriate dress, background, and formatting:

- Please send a digital copy of a portrait of your student in portrait format rather than landscape format. Please make sure that the digital portrait is either a .jpeg or a .png type file. Please make sure that the portrait is free of watermarks.
- This portrait should be of the upper third of the body only; please no full body images.
- Please make sure that the background of the image is a single color, for example a painted wall. The standard portraits have a blue/grey background that is designed to showcase the student. Please keep this in mind when taking the portrait.
- Please send a photo where the student is wearing clothing appropriate for a student portrait, free of emblems, logos, images, or writing of any kind.
- Please make sure that the portrait is well lit and clear.
- Please make sure that the face of the student is fully visible and free of headwear. If the student wears headwear that honors their religious beliefs please make sure that it is free of writing, logos, emblems, or images and does not obscure the face of the student, unless it is necessary for religious observance.
- Please see the following models for portraits; keep in mind that these are examples of senior portraits and this level of formal attire is not required.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Claire Fluharty at cfluharty2@bcps.org. Thank you for your support!
School Portraits - Seniors

Dear Parents/Guardians of Seniors,

At this time, you should have received information regarding senior portraits from Prestige Portraits, a division of Lifetouch. Senior Portrait retakes at Towson High have been scheduled for February 8-11. If you have not received information about scheduling your senior's portrait, please contact Prestige at (410) 525-1700 or access their website.

However, if you and your family feel uncomfortable participating in a traditional portrait session please feel free to choose from the following options:

- You may schedule a private portrait session with the professional photographer of your choice. OR
- You may take the photo yourself and send the picture into the school.

In either case, please follow the guidelines for appropriate dress, background, and formatting:

- Please send a digital copy of a portrait of your senior in portrait format rather than landscape format. Please make sure that the digital portrait is either a .jpeg or a .png type file. Please make sure that the portrait is free of watermarks.
- This portrait should be of the upper third of the body only; please no full body images.
- Please make sure that the background of the image is a single color, for example a painted wall. The standard portraits have a blue/grey background that is designed to showcase the senior. Please keep this in mind when taking the portrait.
- Seniors portraits would normally be taken with students in either a black tuxedo jacket and white shirt or in a black, boatneck, velvet drape. Please approximate this look as best you can. In the event that you are unable to approximate the traditional portrait clothing, please send a photo where the student is wearing clothing appropriate for a senior portrait, free of emblems, logos, images, or writing of any kind.
- Please make sure that the portrait is well lit and clear.
- Please make sure that the face of the senior is fully visible and free of headwear. If the senior wears headwear that honors their religious beliefs please make sure that it is free of writing, logos, emblems, or images and does not obscure the face of the senior, unless it is necessary for religious observance.
- Please see the following models for senior portraits:

If you would like to submit a portrait for a senior, please click here to complete the form and upload the file.

The deadline to submit senior portraits is March 1, 2021.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Claire Fluharty at rfluharty2@bcps.org. Thank you for your support.
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 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_HpBu4IeofwSgEBJ-ZUMZIEdg-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
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
BLACK HISTORY ORATORY COMPETITION

ATTENTION ALL MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Choose One of These Quotes and Describe
"What It Means to You" in 600 Words or Less

“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid
of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good
in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we
are less prone to hate our enemies.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

“If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the re-
sponsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to salve their conscience
by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence. We should,
therefore, protest openly everything... that smacks of discrimination or
slander.” - Mary McLeod Bethune

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” -
Shirley Chisholm

The students with the highest-scored essays will be invited to record a video of them-
selves performing their original speech to compete for scholarship prize money!

The top speeches will be broadcast on WJZ News, and for the first time in BHOC histo-
ry, the winners will be announced on TV!

Email Typed, Double-Spaced Essay and Application to Oratory@wjz.com by 11:59pm
on JANUARY 31, 2021.

Official Rules Will Be Posted On Our Website WJZ.com/Oratory

Questions? Email Oratory@wjz.com
WJZ-TV, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Toyota Financial Services, Morgan State University and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture present the

2021 Black History Oratory Competition

APPLICATION FORM (Please Print)

Student’s Name ____________________________________________________ Age ___________
(Print Clearly)

Address _________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________________________ State __________ Zip _____________

Phone (home) _________________________________ (cell) ______________________________

Email ___________________________________________________________________________

Grade ____________ School ________________________________________________________

Winners will be notified by WJZ-TV

All written, video/audio entries become the sole property of WJZ-TV and will not be returned. Entries may be used at WJZ-TV’s discretion for on-air and off-air publicity and promotion of the Black History Oratory Competition.

Employees of WJZ-TV, CBS, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Morgan State University, Toyota Financial Services and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture and their families or persons living in the same household are not eligible to enter the contest.

Signature of Student ___________________________________________________ Date __________

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____________________________________________ Date __________
(If Student is Under18)

IMPORTANT: Each entry must have this application signed and attached. Scanned applications and/or digital photos of application are acceptable.

Please send your typed, double-spaced, 600 word or less Essay & Application Form to:

oratory@wjz.com

All entries must be received by January 31, 2021 by 11:59pm

Official Rules Available at WJZ.com/Oratory
UPCOMING EVENTS

January, 2021

18  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Observed - Schools and Office Closed
21  Winter Concerts
25  Final Exams - Periods 1 & 2
26  Asynchronous Day - PSAT for Juniors
27  Final Exams - Periods 3 & 4
28  Theatre Production
29  Second Marking Period Ends - All Schools Close 3 Hours Early for Students

February, 2021

11  Report Cards Distributed
15  President’s Day - Schools and Offices Closed
Towson High School
69 Cedar Ave
Towson, MD 21286
PHONE: 443-438-094271