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 Evan Coleman for turning in a lost item he found to the office.
★ STARS to Jakob Sherman for changing the digital clocks in Ms. Surak’s room after Daylight Savings Time.
★ STARS to Julie Kromsky for taking awesome photographs to be included in the newsletter.
★ STARS to Emma Tosh and Tehya Shapiro for volunteering to pick up trash left behind by others as they were passing through the cafeteria. Thank you both for demonstrating leadership, service, and pride.
★ STARS to Cheryelona Bhandari, Kennedy Roberts, and Emelia Bowen for their courage and leadership.
★ STARS to the staff at THS for their dedication to our students.
★ STARS to Ms. Jacobs for her support of students.
★ STARS to Ms. T. Smith for her thoughtfulness.
★ STARS to Ms. Culbertson for her consideration of others.
★ STARS to Ms. Bowman, Mr. Cheung, Ms. Fluharty, Ms. Hne, Ms. Malafarina, and Ms. Marks for their instructional leadership.
★ STARS to Ms. Alexander and Ms. Goldberg for leading the recent professional development session on behalf of the Customization Community of Practice.
★ STARS to Mrs. Raley, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Petras, Mr. Briggs, and Mr. Jackson for hosting college reps for the 2021 BCPS Virtual HBCU Fair!
★ STARS to Ms. Jacobs for planning the BCPS Virtual HBCU Fair.
★ STARS to the Scholars of Ladies of Distinction for their leadership!
★ STARS to Zipporah Ogabo for helping a student and Ms. Jacobs. Thank you for your compassion and leadership.
★ STARS to Ms. Raley for her willingness to always step in and support students and teachers.
★ STARS to Nicholas Schorr for turning in to the office an item that was found in the hallway.
★ STARS to Ms. Wright for turning in to the office a lost item.
★ STARS to Shakerra Shahid for demonstrating leadership and responsibility.
★ STARS to Ms. Moody for thinking of others and sharing delicious plates.
★ STARS to Damola Aryanibi for helping another student clean up their dropped lunch.
★ STARS to Audra Ballinger and Lucy Weir for their help in posting information.
★ STARS to Ms. Schrader for her consistent efforts to support students and staff.
★ STARS to Mr. Allen and Mr. Bannon for maximizing student potential within lessons.
★ STARS to our staff and students for demonstrating leadership and responsibility.
★ STARS to THS staff for their commitment to supporting students—ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.
★ STARS TO Mr. Buick for his dedication and commitment to modeling the expectation for students.
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

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THE TOWSON PRIDE

Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving presents us with the opportunity to reflect on the value of our friends and family.

As a community, Towson High School has so many outstanding accomplishments. Each of you dedicates your commitment and time to sustaining and enhancing the excellence of Towson High School. I am fortunate to work with an outstanding group of dedicated professionals!

Our parents excel at taking an active role in education. Our teachers share their time and talents and work diligently to engage and challenge our students. Our students bring smiles to our faces everyday and truly represent the future of America!

Thank you for representing Towson High School’s Excellence! Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Charlene DiMino
Please Stay Home

If you are sick (and talk to your doctor about whether you should be tested for COVID)

If you have a positive COVID test (and tell your school nurse or supervisor)

If you have had contact with a person with COVID (and tell your school nurse or supervisor)

If you have been tested for COVID (until the results come back)

Baltimore County Public Schools 7-27-2021
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Please review the reminders below so we can all do our best to keep the Towson High community safe and healthy!

**DO NOT** allow your child to attend school if they are not feeling well. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever of 100°F or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Any of these symptoms that are a *change* from child’s usually symptoms related to a chronic condition (such as seasonal allergies or asthma)

▶ Students will be excluded from school for at least 10 days if they have any of the above symptoms, **UNLESS**:
  - They receive a negative COVID test and feel better, or
  - They are diagnosed by a healthcare provider with another specific diagnosis (such as strep throat), or
  - Healthcare provider documents that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition.

All students should be feeling better and fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication prior to returning to school.
DO NOT send your child to school to be tested for COVID.

- We are not able to provide screening tests for students, and those with Covid-like symptoms should never report to school, as this potentially exposes other students and staff to illness.
- Testing resources:

DO always ensure your child has a mask before leaving for school, and an extra mask in case it is needed.

- Masks should always be worn on buses.
- We have extra masks in case a mask is broken or soiled while at school, or for the occasional forgotten mask.
- We do not have a supply of masks to provide to students or staff on a daily basis.

DO notify us of your child tests positive for COVID, has been exposed to a person with COVID, or with any questions regarding quarantine or isolation.

DO always feel free to contact the school nurse, Ms. Russo, at 443-809-4261, or lrusso2@bcps.org for any questions or concerns. Questions may also be directed to the Office of Health Services at 443-809-6368.
Help Restock the GBMC SAFE & DV Program’s Clothing Closet!

As many of you know, due to COVID-19, we were unable to host our Bull Roast in 2020 & 2021. The annual Bull Roast typically raises over $20,000 which helps us purchase clothing, toiletries, food, and comfort items for sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse victims. Many times, we need to take a victim’s clothing because it may need to be collected as an important piece of evidence. When fully stocked, the clothing closet helps us provide our patients with new, clean clothes to wear and a small meal to eat when they are discharged from the hospital.

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, our doors have never closed and we haven’t turned anyone away. 2021 is proving to be our busiest year yet and we can use your support. If you are interested in helping us restock our closet, please see the list below for items we are in desperate need of. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept used clothing, all items must be NEW. We have found that Walmart has the most affordable clothing ranging between $3 - $6 per item. We can also provide a tax donation receipt for your donation. If interested in supporting this cause, please contact Kelly Truax at 443-849-3323 or KTruax@gbmc.org to arrange a drop off.

Visit www.GBMC.org/safe-dv to learn more about the SAFE & DV Program.

**Clothing Items (all sizes)**
- Women’s Sweatpants/Athletic Pants/Pajama Pants
- Women’s Plain T-Shirts
- Women’s Sports Bras
- Women’s Underwear
- Men’s Underwear/Boxers
- Children’s Pajamas

**Toiletries (travel-sized)**
- Soap/Body Wash/Poofs
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/Mouthwash
- Feminine Hygiene Wipes
- Light Days Feminine Pads
- Hairbrushes/Combs

**Misc. Items**
- Phone chargers
- Fast-Food Gift Cards
- Stress Balls/Fidget Toys
- Snacks (Chips, Granola Bars, Cup of Noodles, Mini-Candies etc.)
- Drinks (Cans of Soda/ Juice Boxes /Small Gatorades)
- Matchbox Cars
- Barbies
- Coloring Books

Amazon Wish List:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/29O2EZK5MXP1P?ref =wl_share

**THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**
Beginning Wednesday, November 24, 2021, BCPS will require proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for any high school student participating in BCPS winter and spring sports for the 2021-22 school year.

Students who are unwilling to be vaccinated, or present documentation verifying a medical or religious exemption as to why they cannot be vaccinated, must participate in mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing. Testing will be offered at no cost to the student athlete at their school on a regularly scheduled basis that is either during the school day or practice time. Tests involve a brief self-swab inside the tip of the nose and use PCR technology to detect the COVID virus.

If a student fails to get vaccinated or participate in the mandatory weekly COVID testing process, they will lose their eligibility and be unable to participate or until the requirements are met. Below is the link for all student athletes to register their vaccination status and to opt in to testing. Please share this with your student athletes and parents as they are responsible for participating in this initiative. If they have not been vaccinated, they will be required to do weekly testing. The expectation is for all student athletes to follow the guidelines or risk the ability to participate in BCPS Interscholastic athletics. Information regarding student athletes who have completed the smartsheet will be sent to you and your administrator for follow up.

Winter sports’ athletes are to begin the vaccination process now (if they plan to be vaccinated) and proof of 1st dose is acceptable, however, they will be tested for COVID-19 weekly until they are fully vaccinated (received the 2nd dose of the vaccine) and submitted vaccination card.

If your student athlete has a medical or religious reason for not participating in this process, they are to contact the EEO office at 443-809-8937 for further consideration.

If you have any additional questions as it relates to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the office of athletics for further information.

Student Vaccination Verification Smartsheet - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXQFr3KtKOx-zLtY7_7Ouu0H6CcG4aFnO3oZirih5hxw/viewform
STARS to Amelia Balkan
a member of Educators Rising
and part of the TAM program,
for placing #5 in the state of Maryland
for the Educators Rising Moment
competition.
Attendance Matters! #EveryDayCounts #BCPSRollCall

Research has shown that attendance is a leading predictor of academic achievement and adult success. Students who find attending school important are more likely to attain goals like attending trade school, college, or getting a job. By showing up to school every day, students develop a positive work ethic and prepare for future success by developing healthy and productive habits.

Our goal is for students to attend school at least 94% of the time. By missing just 2 days a month, students will end up missing 10% of the school year. Below are some tips and reminders to help your student attend school regularly. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in ensuring that all of our Towson Generals become life-long learners and productive global citizens.

Student attendance records are available to review in real-time on FOCUS. Follow these directions* to access your student’s attendance record. Follow these directions* to create a parent/guardian FOCUS account. If you notice a discrepancy in your student’s attendance record, please contact the Main Office.

The school day begins at 7:35 AM. If a student arrives late to school during 1st period, they are to report directly to first period, and their 1st period teacher will record their attendance as tardy but present for the day. If a student arrives to school after 1st period (after 9:00 AM), they are to report directly to the Main Office. If the lateness is excused, the student should bring an excuse note from their parent/guardian.

After an excused absence, students should bring an excuse note from their parent/guardian so the absence can be marked as excused. Excuse notes should be dropped off in the bin outside of the Main Office. If your student is absent for multiple days, please contact your student’s School Counselor and inform them of the absence. School Counselors will notify teachers and can collect missing work for your student.

Attendance is reported on students’ high school transcripts. Colleges and future employers that receive students’ transcript will be able to see the number of absences that were accrued each school year.

Students who are under 16 and are applying for their Learner’s Permit must complete the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Verification of School Attendance form. The form asks school officials to sign and seal that the student has not had more than 10 unexcused absences during the prior school semester.

*Press CTRL & click to access
Students in Mr. Schenning's Aquatic Science class applied their knowledge of Mollusks by completing a squid dissection!
Students in Mrs. Karsos’s AP Environmental Science Classes modeled Human Population in different countries using LEGO blocks!
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 31st

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-medical, but they all reveal a new perspective on a common problem.

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Students in Mrs. Drake’s AP Biology class performed skits to apply their knowledge of Cell Communication. Their creativity is amazing!
Ms. McCusker’s IPC students applied their knowledge of kinetic and potential energy by conducting rocket launches out on the field!
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SNHS GIVING SEASON FUNDRAISER

Donate today using the QR code below to support children with cancer!
Science NHS Tutoring

Tuesday/Thursday

Room 123

All Science Subjects!
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THS COVID Exclusion Tutoring

Tuesday-Thursday
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Meets Code: Towsontutoring

Schedule

Tuesday-Brotzman (English)/Raley (Organization)
Wednesday-Blair (Math)
Thursday-Social Studies/Science (Geilfuss/Schrader)
Towson High School
Graduation

Thursday
June 2, 2022

Class of 2022
The Towson High School Theatre Program is proud to announce the opening of our first virtual production!

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

Welcome to the 2021-22 School Year!

Seniors and Juniors,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I hope it is off to a good start. For those of you who do not know me yet, I am Mrs. Wright, and I am the College and Career Counselor at Towson High School. I am here as an extra support for you during the college application process in addition to your alpha counselor. I will be sending out these newsletters every month with reminders for you and scholarship information.

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

Here is the link: https://www.smore.com/ym7sa
Easy-to-understand guidance for parents of children with autism
Our engaging, tabbed guide provides parents with the information they need to understand their child's situation, effectively support their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and support themselves and other family members.

Your Guide To Your Child And Autism Spectrum Disorder (CBC0164)
This guide provides essential information to support parents of a child diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Also offers advice on improving communication, medication, alternative treatments, and living with ASD. Easy-to-navigate sections:

• detail the signs of autism spectrum disorder
• outline the diagnostic process
• discuss possible causes
• describe treatment planning.

Features water- and tear-resistant pages plus colored subject tabs that let readers quickly access the content they need. 32 pages, 3 3/4" x 5 1/2"

***If interested, please contact Iris Piekarz for ordering information at ipiekarz@bcps.org.

Hand in Hand
Parents and Educators working together
A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee (SECCAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools’ Special Education Resource Center. Its purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.

Fall 2021
SECCAC WELCOMES YOU TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Please use this website to access the Hand In Hand newsletter: https://www.smore.com/stgm5.

SERC PARENT WEBINARS
free trainings to support you and your child!
Fall 2021

For the SERC Parent Webinars, please visit this link: https://files.constantcontact.com/obb37973601/2d383e36-825b-43ed-a14a-69ce2bb8e30.pdf
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**SECAC Meeting Schedule for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Our areas of focus continue to be **education and advocacy**. Our voices will continue to be used in a positive, organized effort to help parents and professionals convey information and experiences to leadership, to support the Department of Special Education in their goals, and to advise the Board of Education and top-level decision makers in Baltimore County Public Schools.

We hope you will consider joining us for any or all the scheduled SECAC meetings below. Registration is **not** required. All meetings are open to the public.

Co-Chairpersons
Megan Stewart-Sicking & Julie Zielinski
Secretary
Aviva Goldman
To email parent board-members: bcpssecac@gmail.com
Resource Center Rep
Ellen Galvez egalvez@bcps.org
Executive Director, Department of Special Education
Dr. Kathrine Pierandozzi kpiertandozzi@bcps.org
Director, Department of Special Education
Conya Bailey cbailey@bcps.org
@BaltimoreCountySECAC
On the Web:
https://dci.bcps.org/department/special_education/special_education_citizens_advisory_committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2021</td>
<td>BCPS Department of Special Education Updates &amp; Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2021</td>
<td>SECAC Stakeholder Feedback &amp; Goal Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2021</td>
<td>Superintendent Dr. Darryl Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 2022</td>
<td>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2022</td>
<td>Help My Child is Anxious! Dr. Tana Hope, The Child and Family Therapy Clinic, Kennedy Krieger Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2022</td>
<td>Autism</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2022 (TBD)</td>
<td>Joint Meeting with the GTCAC: Twice Exceptional (2E) Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2, 2022</td>
<td>Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6, 2022</td>
<td>General Stakeholder Feedback: What worked this year? What are our concerns for next year?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meetings are from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Initially meetings will be held virtually via Google Meets using the join code: https://meet.google.com/fak-czqt-dyf. We hope to transition to in-person offerings. If you need to call in or have difficulty joining email egalvez@bcps.org.

*If* Baltimore County Public Schools are closed, or close early for any reason the SECAC meeting will be cancelled.

To join the SECAC email contact list for updates on meetings and events please complete our online form: http://bit.ly/secacnewssignup
UPCOMING EVENTS

November, 2021

22  Report Cards Distributed
24-26  Thanksgiving Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed

We encourage all our students to attend school prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

December, 2021

23-31  Winter Break begins at the end of the school day.

January, 2022

3  Schools Reopen
17  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools and Offices CLOSED
21  Second Marking Period Ends—Schools Close 3 Hours Early for All Students
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