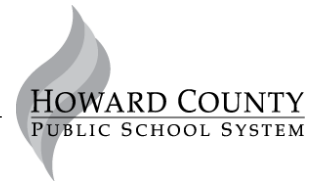


# THOMAS VIADUCT MIDDLE SCHOOL

7000 Banbury Drive • Hanover, MD 21076 • 410-313-8711 • (F) 410-313-8091 • tvms.hcpss.org



Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Grade Students:

Welcome to Thomas Viaduct Middle School. This letter will help guide you and your student through the selection process for sixth grade **world language** and **music performance**. After reading this letter, we encourage you and your student to discuss her/his strengths and interests to ensure a successful transition to middle school. On behalf of the TVMS staff, welcome to our school family, home of the timber wolves! We have already started preparations for your student, and your selections on the accompanying form will help us with scheduling for the 2017-2018 school year. Our Rising Sixth-Grade Parent Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at TVMS. We are looking forward to seeing you that evening. **Please complete the attached form, and return it to your student's fifth grade teacher by January 13, 2017.**

**Music Performance:** TVMS Music Performance options include band, orchestra, or chorus. Students who are enrolled in band or orchestra will participate in music sectionals. This means that in addition to the ensemble class, students will be pulled out for sectionals from their other classes on a rotating schedule. Sectionals are typically scheduled for 50 minutes once per week. Please note, sectionals are a required part of the performing arts program. It is important to note that students who are scheduled for a reading and/or a mathematics seminar may have fewer choices regarding performing arts participation.

**World Language Program:** (*French or Spanish*) Starting in their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year at Thomas Viaduct Middle School, students have the option to take World Language. This opportunity enables students to complete at least level one during middle school and pursue World Language study through the Advanced Placement level during high school. For students who have taken World Language in elementary school, this provides continuity in instruction.

**Registration:** To register for World Language or music performance, **all parents must complete the included form**. You also have the choice to opt out of either or both on the attached form. If World Language and music performance are both selected, students will not be able to take the full complement of Related Arts (Fine Art, Technology Education, General Music, and Family and Consumer Science) in grade 6. It is important to note that students who are scheduled for a **reading and/or mathematics seminar** may have fewer options regarding participation.

A more detailed description of the middle school program of study is included with this correspondence.

If you have questions about any of the courses, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Office of Fine Arts-Visual Arts 410.313.6634 / direct emails to Gino\_Molfino@hcpss.org
- Office of Fine Arts-Music at 410.313.6885 / direct emails to Terry\_Eberhardt@hcpss.org
- Office of World Languages at 410.313.7485 / direct emails to Leslie\_Grahn@hcpss.org

For questions regarding scheduling, please contact our guidance office at 410-313-8247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shinee Ann John".

Shinee Ann John  
Principal

## Middle School Schedule in Detail

- The middle school schedule is seven periods. All students receive daily instruction aligned to Maryland’s College and Career-Ready Standards in English, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Maryland regulations require:
  - all students to take Health Education (a quarter long course, which is scheduled every other day for a semester), Physical Education (typically scheduled every other day for the entire year), and a Fine Arts (art and/or music) course every year.
  - students to take Family and Consumer Science (FACS) in 8th grade or receive the financial literacy information embedded within another course.
  - students to complete at least one Innovation and Inquiry Reading Module related to career readiness or receive this information through another course.
- Students who are reading on or below grade level will take at least two quarters of reading in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, one of which will be a reading skills transitional module, unless the students are enrolled in a reading seminar. There is no reading requirement for 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

<p><b>The middle school schedule consists of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language Arts</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• Related Arts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Arts (Music Performance, General Music, and/or Art)*</li> <li>• Health Education</li> <li>• Physical Education (every other day all year, when possible)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Students may also choose to take:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Languages (French or Spanish) to develop globally relevant literacy skills (every other day in grade 6, daily in grades 7 and 8)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing Arts (year-long band, orchestra, and/or chorus)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Some students may also take:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Related Arts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Art, General Music, Family and Consumer Science (FACS), Technology Education</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gifted and Talented (GT) Research (6<sup>th</sup> grade only), GT seminars (all students), or intervention courses in reading and/or mathematics</li> <li>• Innovation and Inquiry Reading Modules</li> </ul>	<p><b>*The Fine Arts requirement can be fulfilled through the following classes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General Music</b> provides students with a deeper understanding of the language of music and how it relates to and impacts our lives and cultures through the study of four main strands: keyboard, guitar, world music drumming, and music technology (1 quarter in the related arts rotation).</li> <li>• <b>Music Performance</b> (<i>Chorus, Band, Orchestra</i>) provides students the opportunity to develop technical skills and personal interpretations and to perform expressively and collaboratively through experiences with varied musical works (full year elective with sectionals in band and orchestra).</li> <li>• <b>Visual Arts</b> educates, informs and involves students and the school community in meaningful child-centered experiences that develop artistic behaviors, critical and creative thinking, and the exploration of personal artistic meaning. Disciplines covered include: drawing from observation, imagination and memory, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and crafts. (1 quarter in the related arts rotation).</li> </ul>
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# Thomas Viaduct Middle School

## Registration Form

Return to your child's fifth grade classroom teacher by January 13, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Last Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student First Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Classroom Teacher (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**MUSIC PERFORMANCE:** *students may decide to continue their participation in their chosen field of interest, which includes sectionals and required after school performances (select only one)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Band** Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Orchestra** Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chorus**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Opt out**

**WORLD LANGUAGE:** *students may choose to begin or continue their participation in the World Language program*

\_\_\_\_\_ **French**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Opt out**

Selecting both Music Performance and World Language will only allow a student to enroll in one of the related arts (Art, Family and Consumer Science, General Music, and/or Technology Education).