In our STARS section, individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the school. Staff members are encouraged to submit accolades that are worthy of the General’s Star.

Our staff and students strive for excellence on a daily basis. The comments listed below represent some of the recognition for our staff and students.

**STARS to Casey Bowman** for helping out in SPARC during her planning period!

**STARS to Officer Fiedler, Ms. Hancock, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Stevens** for their hard work and efforts with clearing the ice and snow on the most recent inclement weather day.

**STARS to Officer Cardano and Officer Fiedler** for their consistent efforts to support students and staff—January 9, 2020 was National Law Enforcement Day.

**STARS to Mr. Brotman, Ms. Greenberg, Mr. Olson, Ms. Richmond, Ms. Schrader, Ms. Valsing, and Ms. Zava** for their instructional leadership with showcasing their departments.

**STARS to Ms. Bowman, Mr. Buick, Mr. Carter, Mr. Chrismer, Mr. Collins, Mr. Constantin, Ms. Damon, Ms. Flynn, Mr. Heckle, Ms. Karsos, Ms. Kemper, Ms. Malafarina, Ms. Marsh, Mr. Marx, Ms. Muirhead, Ms. Needer, Mr. Palmi, Mr. Ridge, Ms. Seck, Mr. Sonneborn, Ms. Walters, and Ms. Wilson** for opening their classrooms for visitors from the curriculum offices.

**STARS to our school counseling team** for their efforts with registration.

**STARS to Macie Hakim** for her selection as Towson High School’s finalist for The Young Woman Outstanding Leader Program through Towson University.

**STARS to Ms. Hawkins,** THS parent, for her participation as a contestant on *Wheel of Fortune.*

**STARS to Sam Birkenthal** for receiving an Official Citation from the Maryland General Assembly in recognition of earning 1st Place People’s Choice Award in the 18th annual Rethink Recycling Sculpture Contest.

**STARS to Ms. Nash and the students of the Teacher Academy** for attending the Educator’s Rising Conference.
Happy New Year from the Health and Physical Education Departments!!

Upon returning from the winter break, the Fitness classes completed the seventh chapter review session to help promote cognitive learning with a focus on content specific vocabulary. To start off the new year, our Fitness students are participating in our weight room circuit training and basketball units.

The weight room circuit training unit is designed to help our Fitness students learn the basics of safety, form and technique, as well as, the areas of the body and muscles being used for the exercises performed. All students watch an informative safety video that enables them to participate in the weight training intramural program after school.

The basketball unit focuses on basic skills and allows for students to have success regardless of ability level. Fitness students will have a general understanding of the rules for the game and improve their fitness through participating in modified and regular game play. At the start of the next semester, the Fitness classes will begin activity in volleyball, Yoga, and cooperative games/challenges.

The Team Sports classes are starting winter half court basketball tournaments. Students in Team Sports are also enjoying the final days of the Matball tournament that were started prior to the winter break. The teams who have won tournaments are honored with a picture posted in the locker rooms. This serves as excellent motivation for students to do well. A picture of the MVP of the team is also posted.
Students in Health classes are in the process of completing all of the required topics and are preparing for the final exam at the end of the semester. Health students experienced units in skills for health, mental/emotional health, nutrition, safety and injury prevention, substance abuse prevention, family life and human sexuality, and communicable diseases. A highlight of the semester was that Health Teachers worked in conjunction with the School Counseling Office for some lessons including the "One Love" movement for healthy relationships.

January 14 - 17, 2020: Midterm exams. Fitness students will be able to use graded chapter reviews, readings and quizzes from the completed work for the semester.

January 24, 2020: All make up work should be completed and turned in.

Students in the Physical Education department can look forward to the following units in the second semester: floor hockey, bowling, shuffle board, softball, tennis, and badminton.

March 12, 2020: The Health Fair sponsored by Towson University will be in the gymnasium from 10:30 am - 3:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity for students to learn more about the current hot topic health issues that teens are faced with today. Students will need to sign up for the event in order to attend the fair during the allotted time. See Nurse Russo for any specific questions.

March 20 - 27, 2020: All Fitness students will complete the Fitness Gram post test.
All Fitness students have completed the winter installment of the Fitness Gram. Close to 96% of our students have shown improvement in at least one area of Health Related Fitness including muscular endurance, muscular strength, and cardiorespiratory fitness. If you are interested in seeing the fitness scores from the standardized test, you can log into the Fitness Gram App on Schoology.

All of our Physical Education students have enjoyed activity in most, if not all, of the following units: football, soccer, rugby, ultimate frisbee, fitness stations, aerobics, dance, and wrestling.

We pride ourselves on providing our students with a wide variety of activities to help encourage students to find something that helps them achieve a lifetime of fitness.

Thank You

A special thank you to Sonia Synkowski from the Central office of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and Bob Russell (Class of 1970) from Cockeysville Middle School for helping us during our dance activity. This is an annual tradition around Thanksgiving time, and the Fitness students really enjoyed themselves.
General Items

Spring Break is April 6 - 13, 2020. All students are encouraged to set some time aside to exercise at least three days over the break. Keep a good focus on your diet. Both exercise and diet have a tremendous impact on physical and mental health. The Fitness students completed a personal fitness program project in which they were able to track how much exercise they did and what they ate for a week. Everyone is encouraged to set goals, keep track, and reward yourself for anything fitness and health related initiatives.
Towson High’s Educators Rising students attended a conference at CCBC Dundalk on Thursday, January 9, 2020. Students who plan to be future teachers had a chance to attend professional development classes, listen to keynote speaker Freeman Hrabowski, and participate in a service project.

Many of the students competed in competitions while there and if they win, they could go on to state and national competitions. Some students gave a speech about the power of education, while others created a children's book.

We have been collecting books, bubbles, games to make enrichment kits for elementary school students for summer and toiletry kits or less fortunate students, as well. Kits were put together on Thursday.
CONGRATULATIONS
Sam Birkenenthal!

Sam received an official citation from the Maryland General Assembly in recognition of earning 1st place People’s Choice Award in the 18th annual Rethink Recycling Sculpture Contest!

Way to go Sam!!!

Sam with the winning sculpture.
Thank you to Towson High School’s SROs:

Officer Tim Fiedler
Officer Tony Cardano
CONGRATULATIONS

Macie Hakim!!

Macie was selected as Towson High School’s finalist for the Young Woman Outstanding Leader Program through Towson University!

Way to go Macie!!!
During last week’s visit from content experts, the following feedback was shared specific to our instructional program:

♦ Engagement was evident in every content and classroom.
♦ Not one student had their head down. All students were interested and engaged.
♦ Students were using a reading framework.
♦ All students were able to articulate what they were doing and were interested in sharing what they were learning.
♦ The students were using content vocabulary in high level discussion.
♦ All teachers were circulating and interacting with students, not sitting at their own desks.
♦ Teachers had objectives posted and the students had a clear understanding of expectations.
♦ Students were challenged as intellectual partners.
♦ Teachers have established positive rapport with students.
♦ Students were engaged with responsive instruction.
♦ Students were involved with creating products.
♦ Timed assignments assisted to prepare students for independence.
♦ Students were engaged in a dialogue using content vocabulary.
♦ Mathematical discourse was evident in the classrooms.
♦ Students worked collaboratively and independently.
♦ Students were communicating with each other and thinking outside of the box.
♦ Co-teaching was evident and instructors worked collaboratively with students.
♦ Every action was directly aligned to the objective.
♦ Teachers and leaders have developed relationships with students.
♦ The level of critique was fascinating.
♦ Students assumed leadership to transition, discuss, access technology, and share conclusions.
♦ It was obvious that students were involved in creating the learning environment.
Ms. Goldberg's Living Systems class building a DNA model using KINEX Kits.
Science Aquatics

Students in Ms. Damon’s class concluded their classification unit with a perch dissection! The students described the structures and functions of both external and internal features such as the lateral line, fins, swim bladder, and gills. Sushi, anyone?
Physics students in Mr. Ridge's 3B class used their knowledge of the law of conservation of energy to determine the physical characteristics of a popper toy. By determining the height that each paper reaches, they can establish a value for the energy stored in it before it pops, allowing them to calculate the 'springiness' of each popper.
JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT Towson High School

BRING THIS FLYER (OR SHOW ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE)
Tuesday January 21st

& 20% OF YOUR PURCHASE WILL BE GIVEN BACK TO THE GROUP!

Sweet Frog Timonium
443-895-4899
2159 York Rd
Timonium, MD 21093
Located in Timonium Square Shopping Center
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

Towson University

Admissions Rep: Courtney Cox (ccox@towson.edu)

Fact 1: Only accepts their own online application that can be accessed through the Towson University website
Deadline: Early Action - December 1, Regular Decision - January 15

Fact 2: Burdick Gym was recently expanded to include some new features such as an American Ninja Warrior inspired obstacle course, a sprint hill, and group exercise rooms for kick-boxing or cycling. Our gym also has a 3500 square foot rock climbing wall.

Fact 3: The incoming freshman class of 2018-2019 was the largest and most diverse in TU’s history. Of that class, 46 percent identified as racial/ethnic minorities, including 25 percent African-American.
Do You Have Questions About College Applications?

Mr. Briggs and Ms. Wright are here to help!!

Every Wednesday, from 2:15 pm-3:15 pm, Mr. Briggs, School Counseling Department Chair, and Ms. Wright, LPP & College Counselor, will be in the library to assist students and parents with any questions about college applications. Please stop by if you need any assistance.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Towson High School Class of 2020

PTSA Sponsored
Senior (After Prom) Celebration
Friday, May 15th
11 PM – 2 AM
Orokawa, YMCA, Towson

Every year, it has been a tradition for the PTSA to hold an after-prom event, called the Senior Celebration. This FREE event provides students and their guests a SAFE alternative to “high risk” activities that can sometimes follow a prom. Our goal is to offer a MEMORABLE night filled with FUN ACTIVITIES and PRIZES.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

Please consider LEADING (or co-leading) A SUB-COMMITTEE:

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Contact Jackie Burkhardt, Sr. Celebration Chair, jburkhardt1@msn.com for details.

ATTENTION: Parents/Guardians of 9th, 10th and 11th graders, please consider volunteering for a committee. When it is your senior’s turn, you will then be supported by the other classes for this FUN evening!

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DONATIONS
CASH and PRIZE DONATIONS (such as gift cards) are also critical to make this event happen!
Cap and Gown order forms are in!!

Please pick one up from outside the main office or from room 113.

You must have a cap and gown to walk in the graduation ceremony. The current cost is $8.54. Remember to order before the end of January as the price goes up significantly. Remember to keep your receipt!!

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns at cgreenberg@bcps.org
What is a Seal of Biliteracy? A Seal of Biliteracy is a state award that recognizes a student’s high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages other than English. It is awarded to eligible high school students by participating public school systems in Maryland. Begun in California in 2011, the Seal of Biliteracy is now offered in 28 states and the District of Columbia. Maryland’s Seal of Biliteracy Bill was signed into law in 2016.

Eligibility: To be eligible for a Seal of Biliteracy, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
- Pass the Maryland High School Assessment in English 10.
- Score Intermediate High Proficiency or equivalent on an approved world language assessment. Below is a partial list of assessments and their qualifying scores.

**Assessment:**

**Minimum Qualifying Score:**

- Advanced Placement: 4
- International Baccalaureate: 6 (Standard)

**ACTFL Assessments**: (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages):

**Intermediate High**

For a complete list:

[http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/World-Languages/Biliteracy/index.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/World-Languages/Biliteracy/index.aspx)

Why is Maryland Awarding a Seal of Biliteracy? High school graduates who can function in two or more languages are equipped with the knowledge and skills to
participate successfully in college, careers, and a diverse 21st century society. The purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy is to: "Recognize the value of language learning in public schools. "Encourage students to attain high proficiency levels in one or more languages in addition to English. "Affirm native or heritage languages. "Provide employers with a method of identifying individuals with language and biliteracy skills. "Prepare students with the critical skills necessary to function in a global society. "Strengthen cross-cultural communication, affirm the value of diversity and honor the multiple cultures and languages in our communities.

Heritage Languages in Maryland
Nearly 17% of Maryland’s students speak a language other than English at home. Some of these students take weekend classes in their heritage language for many years. These students will also be eligible to be recognized for their language proficiency with a Seal of Biliteracy in their heritage language. They must meet the same eligibility requirements listed in this brochure.

Cost There is no cost to the student to apply for the voluntary Seal of Biliteracy. However, students are responsible for any assessment fees not covered by their school or school system.
UPCOMING EVENTS

January, 2020

14-17 Midterm Exams
20 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Observed—Schools and Offices Closed
21-22 Midterm Exam Make-ups
22 General Nathan Towson’s Birthday
23 Tri-M Coffeehouse, 4:00 pm, Cafeteria
23-31 HSA Fall Assessment
24 2nd Marking Period Ends
30 Tri-M Coffeehouse *SNOW DATE*, 4:00 pm, Cafeteria

February, 2020

Black History Month
4 All Schools and Offices CLOSED for Special 7th Congressional District Elections
6 Report Cards Made Available Through Homeroom, 2nd Period
17 Now a regular SCHOOL DAY - Previously schools and Offices were closed
18 Edible Art Exhibit, 6:00 pm, Cafeteria
19 Sophomore Class Assembly
Graduation
Thursday
May 28, 2020