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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 cc dlauten@bcps.org. Help up recognize the outstanding efforts of our students and staff.

X STARS to Joanne Pachilis and Simon Briggs for all they do for students!

STARS to Cary
Sonneborn's Freshman
LPP Intro to Law class
who roleplayed in a
mock trial of King
John, signer of the
Magna Carta! Great
participation, awesome
British accents and superior reading efforts!!
Great job!!

Waters for continuing to follow up with new teachers and helping them with their content.

▼ STARS to GT Government teachers for daily use of common planning time.

**STARS to Ms. Culbertson** for being the eye in the sky for attendance to ensure all students are getting to class.

X STARS to Shuming (Alan) Mao and

**Kayla Yup** for assisting Mr. Ridgely with technology.

\*\*STARS To Felicia and Rachel Valsing for their leadership and contributions to this week's newsletter.

STARS to the Administration team for their collective planning and implementation of a professional development session on Culturally Responsive Instruction

STARS to Jackie
Flynn for sharing a detailed summary during our professional development session.

STARS to Kevin
Dalsimer, Ben Cohen, Erich Geckle
and Jonathan Salvino for their collective
efforts to represent the
faculty.

STARS to Tom Geilfuss, Catherine McCusker and Scott Olson for their efforts to engage students during daily instruction.

STARS to Laura Russo and Jenna Zava for their efforts to support students and staff with self care.

X STARS to Julie Kromsky for her efforts with the freshmen class elections.

STARS to Randi Jones and Scott Olson for their leadership with SGA.

★ STARS to our custodial team. Friday, October 2, 2020 is National Custodian Day! We appreciate their efforts! Did you know that our custodial team was recognized last year for their camaraderie with an award from BCPS? THANK YOU!!!

Zava for running an excellent after-school Yoga class for teachers with responsive instruction tailoring to our individual needs.

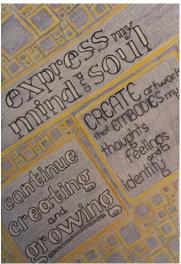
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#### **Building an Art Community Online**

The Towson High School Art Department took the beginning of the school year to create community and conversation. Moving from global to personal, students created personal mission statements after researching artist manifestos and missions. Then classes worked on community agreements by identifying words that they associated to belonging. These terms were designed into a word cloud that began a conversation about establishing a safe creative space in our classrooms.

#### Student Personal Mission Statements







Olivia Felix



Jemma Miller-Breetz

## "What is Belonging?" Word Cloud





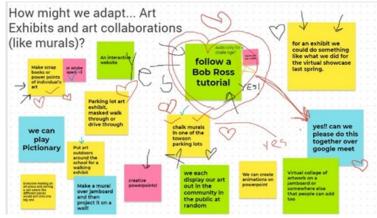
#### National Art Honor Society

Last spring, when the world stopped and school became virtual, the National Art Honor Society kept going. Within the first week of quarantine, officers and members realized that the need to create an artistic outlet in the community was necessary and valuable. They created activities that everyone in the community could participate in- from making window decals that support essential works to writing letters to isolated neighbors. These dedicated students went on to create a virtual Art Showcase to give the THS art community and opportunity to share work created through out the year and in quarantine. NAHS students worked together to develop a theme, curate artwork, and create the virtual gallery. You can check it out here: <a href="https://spark.adobe.com/page/hMUJIH6dwJTPC/">https://spark.adobe.com/page/hMUJIH6dwJTPC/</a>

The momentum of the spring has not waivered as we move into fall! Our first virtual meeting hosted 46 students- new and returning members. Using a Jamboard (pictured) we brainstormed what NAHS could look like this year. Students are excited to convert past events into virtual opportunities and create new events that support and uplift the arts community! NAHS members know the value of art in their lives and look forward to creating connections, learning new things and engaging the community. We will get through this with art!

If students are interested in participating in NAHS, there is still time! Contact Ms. Miller at <a href="mailto:lmiller19@bcps.org">lmiller19@bcps.org</a> for more information and to join the NAHS Schoology group. Our meetings are every second Tuesday of the month.

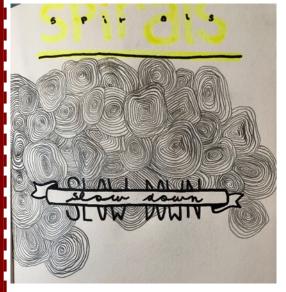
#### Jamboard Brainstorming at the first NAHS Meeting in September





# department

#### Mindful Minute



Sketchbook Page by Samantha Zelleweger

Art classes can provide a great opportunity for students to practice mindfulness and the art department is introducing simple drawing strategies that students can use to calm their thoughts, take breaks from screens, and re-focus their thinking.

Drawing a tightly wound spiral for two minutes, doodling shapes that create a pattern, and recording breathing through a line that turns with each inhale and exhale are some of the prompts used at the opening or closing of class.

#### 2020 Advanced Placement Portfolio Exam Takers

Congratulations to the 2020 AP Art Exam Takers who submitted their portfolios in Drawing, 2D Design, and 3D Design this past Spring. Despite the challenges of completing and submitting portfolios during remote learning, the 2020 Senior artists did not disappoint with nearly 100% passing and many receiving high scores.



Selection of works from Jennifer Lee's portfolio, which earned 5, the AP Art exam's highest score 7



## Looking for ways to get involved with the THS art community? Want to support our student artists? Look no further?

TAPA!

TAPA is a volunteer group of parents who support the visual arts programs at Towson High School. There are many ways to get involved in supporting our creative community, and we need your help!

#### **TAPA Members:**

Help with managing art events, like the Art Auction, Showcase, Edible Art

Gather donated prizes from local businesses for our annual Edible Art contest

Donate items for student led art projects like the sculptures and clothing designs featured at Celebration of Light and the Fashion Show

Select the winner of the Senior Purchase Award, a scholarship given to a Senior artist whose work is then permanently installed in the THS Gallery.

Meetings are held throughout the school year, virtually for now, the second Tuesday of the month from 5:00pm-5:30pm.

Learn more about THS ART:

Towsonhighschoolart.weebly.com/

Parent rep: KimBeardReuse@gmail.com



Find more updates from the Art Department:



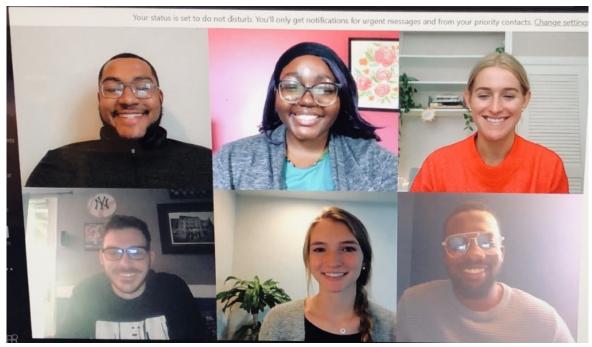
@artdeptths



@towsonhsart



# To Our New Teachers



STARS to our new teachers!! They are all working so hard, staying positive and truly working to support and engage our students.

Teachers from left to right:

Top Row: Brandon Allen, Famatta Hne, Catherine McCusker

Bottom Row: Tom Bannon, Samantha Yff, Desmond McCullough

Welcome to the Towson High School Family!!

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



There are lots of places to get your flu vaccine, including your doctor's office, pharmacies, and the local health department.

Below are just a few links to some of these:

**Health department** - Free flu shots: <a href="http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/">http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/</a> Documents/Health/flyers/flushots.pdf

**CVS Pharmacy** (CVS at Target) - Schedule or walk-in; get a flu shot AND a \$5 gift card or coupon:

https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/flu

#### Rite-Aid Pharmacy:

https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/vaccine-central/immunization-information/flu

Walgreens Pharmacy - Schedule or walk-in; get a flu shot AND a \$5 coupon:

https://www.walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/seasonal-flu.jsp?

ban=flu\_fy21\_influenzapage

#### For more info about flu vaccines:

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm;

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/misconceptions.htm

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/14/well/live/how-flu-shots-can-help-in-the-

fight-against-covid-19.html

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The following students are recognized by the Science Department for their hardwork, participation and collaboration with their peers and teachers.

Congratulations!!!



#### Week of September 14, 2020 through September 18, 2020

Henry Graves and Zion Mojibola	Living Systems (Damon)
Aislinn Mischke and Evan Wohltmann	Aquatics (Damon)
Aslynn Gorkos and Amani Smith	Aquatics (Damon)
Hess Dijiloni	IPC (Jochmans)
Emily Jensen	Physics (Jochmans)
Conner Rinehart	
Dylan Carson	Living Systems (Mccullough)
Cecelia Layfield	Living Systems (Mccullough)
Adam Daas	Living Systems (Mccullough)
Kennedy Roberts	Living Systems (Mccullough)
Vincent Guida	
Ayelet Unguru	
Sophie DeVries	Living Systems (Schrader)



# 

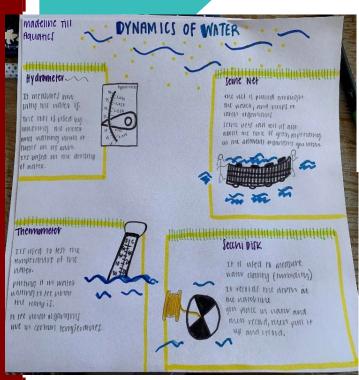


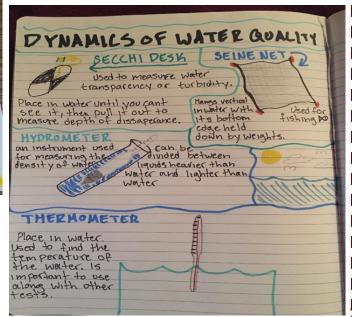
Eliza Davis	. Science Department Aide (Science Dept.)				
Sydney Ballenger	Forensics (Hanford)				
Julieta Marin	Living Systems (Damon)				
Connor Dickens	Living Systems (Damon)				
Tommy Welling	Aquatics (Damon)				
Madeline Till	Aquatics (Damon)				
Todd Fiske	Aquatics (Damon)				
	Aquatics (Damon)				
Natalie Gimignani					
	Anatomy (Karsos)				
Alexander Heath	UTSEarth Systems (Karsos)				
Dylan Redden					
Khumari Burgess	Earth Systems (Karsos)				
Ian Knott	Physics (Ridge)				
Clarissa Hauber	Physics (Ridge)				
Elise Chang	Physics (Ridge)				
Lydia Lee	Living Systems (Schrader)				
Week of September 28, 2020 through October 2, 2020					
Ava Wasik	Living Systems (Damon)				
Ella Lechtzin	Living Systems (Damon)				
Jack Carlson					
Chiara Menegatti	Aquatics (Damon)				
Kyle Ward	Aquatics (Damon)				
•	Aquatics (Damon)				
_	AP Bio (Drake)				
Sam Burke	Living Systems (Schrader)				

## **AQUATICS**

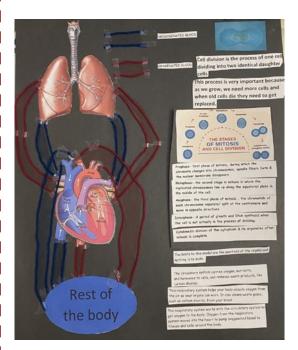
In Ms. Damon's 3A aquatics class, students have been studying water, specifically its distribution on earth, its properties, and testing tools for water quality. Students were asked to create an educational poster highlighting four different testing tools. They had their choice of creating it using a virtual tool or by hand. Here are some examples made by the following students: Adam Crowe, Kaiyu Wheeler, Madeline Till, Emmy Demshak-Geddes, and Aislinn Mischke.







## LIVING SYSTEMS



#### The Nervous & Skeletal System

Nervous System Function: The nervous system's main function is to receive and process information from the environment around the body. The nervous system controls the five main senses (smell, taste, hear, touch, and see.) Without the nervous system and its main organ, the brain, the human body would not be able to function at all. The brain is what controls the body's actions and allows all of the other systems to complete their tasks.

Nervous System Organs/Main parts: The main organs and tissues of the nervous system consist of the brain, spinal cord, sensory organs, and the nerves.

Facts/disorders: Parkinson's disease, Alzheimers, ALS/MS, Cerebral/Ball palsy, Epilepsy, and Neurofibromatosi are all disorders that are affected by/ can affect the nervous system.

Skeletal System Function: The skeletal system's main function is to provide a structure for the human body and allow it to keep its bolance. The skeletal system also serves as an outer shield for the internal organs that it covers: brain, lungs, etc.

Nervous System Organs/Main parts: The bones, ligaments, tendons, and joints are the main organs and tissues of this system

Facts: The adult human body is made up of a total of 206 bones

How do these two systems work together? I he nervous system and the skeletal system work together by providing each other with what they both need the most of. The bones provide the nerves with calcium and protection, and the nerves provide the bones with enabled movement, sensors, and protection to the joints.

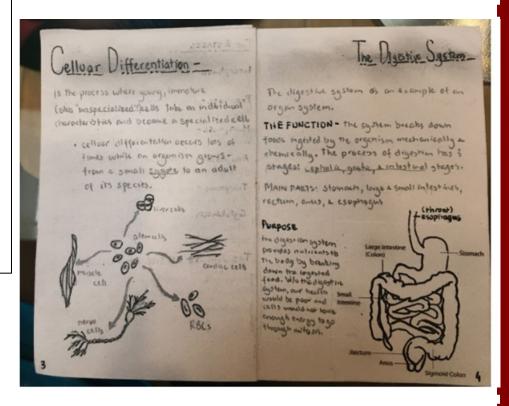
Mooss Cellular Division Role: Cellular division plays an extremely important role in reproduction of cells. Cellular division, also know as Mitasis, happens when the nucleus divides into nuclei and contains the same amount of chromosomes. The phases of mitasis are interphase, prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and cytokinesis

Cell Differentiation: This is the process in which cells change from their one cell type to another. This differentiation occurs when a multicellular organism is being developed.

Limits of Model: A model of these systems is very different from the actual ones in the body because you are only visually able (to an extent) to acknowledge the main parts of

Students in Ms.

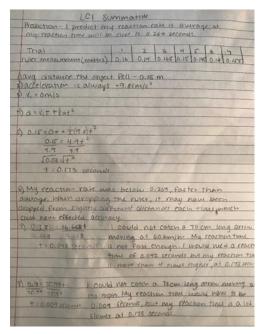
Schrader's Living Systems class created a model of the interaction of two body systems. They had the option of completing the model digitally or on paper. The models here were done by (upper left to right) Nicholas Jamatte Collado, Sophie DeVries and Jason Le.

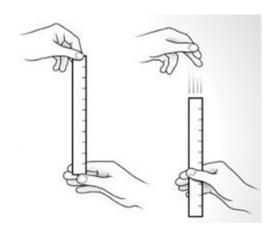


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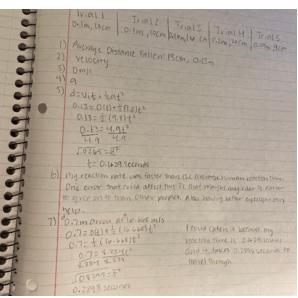
## **PHYSICS**

"Students in Mr. Ridge's Physics class wrapped up their LC1 last week on kinematics by determining their reaction time and using that info to find out if they would be able to catch an arrow out of the air."









#### Tired of being on the computer all day?



Lots of issues can arise with prolonged time staring at a screen – headaches, eyestrain and dry eyes, sore neck and back...



#### **Take Breaks**

- It's not easy with busy teaching and work duties that must be done online, but the goal should be 10 minutes off the screen every hour. Use the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes focus on an object about 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.
- If you can't reduce your screen time during the work day, at least try to decrease personal screen time phone, social media, tv, etc.

#### Workspace

Setting up your workspace properly can help prevent problems. Your computer screen should be 20-24 inches from eyes and angled 10-15 degrees below eye level. (1/2/10 rule: phones 1 foot away, desktops/laptops 2 feet, TVs 10 feet (depending on size).

- Low light about half that of normal activity. Keep your screen out of direct sunlight or artificial lighting, close shades.
- Computer settings: Brightness similar to room. Text size and contrast for comfort. Display settings to reduce color temperature.

#### Sleep

• Try to get enough sleep and avoid screens 1 hour before bed.

#### **Eve Health**

• Everyone should get regular eye exams, even if you don't wear glasses.

#### Blink!

We tend not to blink enough while staring at screens, which can result in dry eyes.

## EYE STRAIN

### Complaints about headaches?

Eye discomfort?

Sore backs?



Haven't we been telling our kids to limit screen time? And now they're on there all day for school!

A number of health concerns can arise from prolonged computer use and screen time. But there are some things you can do to prevent and address these issues.

> Screens, Teens, and Online Learning

#### CONCERNS

Eye & vision issues: Prolonged screen time can result in evestrain. eve discomfort, dry eye, and blurry vision.

Just like other muscles, those around the eye can become tired with extended use. After focusing on a screen for a long period of time, a person may experience blurred vision once they look away.

- Fatigue
- Headaches

Focusing on a screen for extended periods of time can result in concentration difficulties and headaches centered around the temple & eyes.

Neck and Back pain

















#### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

#### Additional screen time

With the current remote learning environment, students can be expected to be online in class about 4 hours a day, in addition to time spent working on assignments. Studies have also found that teens normally spend close to 7 hours a day watching TV, playing video games, using social media, and other screen time.



- Learning space configuration how the home learning space is setup, including lighting, desk height, chair position, and other factors can contribute to problems. Computers are usually situated higher up in the visual field than a book, for example. As a result, the upper eyelids tend to be open wider which can result in quicker tear evaporation and dry eyes.
- Self-awareness kids tend to keep doing something enjoyable, like
  playing a video game, for hours without breaks. They also tend to be less
  responsive to their body's cues. They are more likely to ignore problems or
  not consider possible solutions.
- Underlying eye problems or other health issues.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### • Take Frequent breaks!

- o Try to schedule a 10-minute break every hour
- Use the "20-20-20 rule" every 20 minutes, stop looking at your screen for at least 20 seconds to look at something at least 20 feet away. This relaxes your eye muscles to prevent fatigue that leads to eye strain, and reduces headaches
- Set a timer to remind you to take breaks
- Reduce overall time spent looking at screens! (remember phones, games, tv, etc.)



#### Get active

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children age 6
years and older get at 60 minutes of physical activity each day

#### Posture

- Encourage your child to sit with good posture and at least 20 inches from large screens
- Workspace configuration: A typical office space may be designed with an adult body in mind. This is not always ideal for children.



- Screen position: Position your computer screen 20 to 24 inches from your eyes. The center of your screen should be about 10 to 15 degrees below eye level for comfortable positioning of the head and neck, and to minimize dry eyes
- Chair: adjust the chair so feet rest comfortably on the floor
- If alternating between viewing print materials and a screen, position papers on a stand adjacent to the screen
- When in doubt, follow the 1/2/10 rule: phones ideally at one foot, desktop devices and laptops at two feet, and about 10 feet for TV screens (depending on how big the screen is). Encourage your child to hold digital media farther away, 18 to 24 inches is ideal.
- Lighting: Ideal light/brightness level for screen use is about half that of normal activities. If possible, position screens so they are not in the direct path of light from a window or light fixture. Computer monitor hoods or shades that attach to the screen may also be utilized.
- Computer display settings: Adjust the brightness and contrast of your computer screen so that it feels comfortable to you.
  - Brightness. Adjust brightness so it's similar to your surroundings. As a test, look at the white background of a web page. If it looks like a light source, it's too bright. If it seems dull and gray, it may be too dark.
  - Text size and contrast. Adjust the text size and contrast for comfort.
     Usually, black print on a white background is the best combination



- for comfort. Adjusting the font size so it's twice as big as yoy can comfortably read.
- Color temperature. If possible, use your display settings to reduce the color temperature of your screen. This will reduce the amount of blue light emitted by your screen for better long-term viewing comfort.
- Blink! Studies show that people blink significantly less often when concentrating on a screen, which can cause dry eyes. Remember to try to blink, and purposefully increase blinking, especially when taking breaks
- Sleep Lack of adequate sleep can lead to tired, sore eyes. The AAP
  recommends children not sleep with devices in their bedrooms, including
  TVs, computers and smartphones. Additionally, screens should be avoided
  at least an hour before bed.
- Take care of your eyes!
  - AAP recommends eye examinations at annual well-child visits to prevent dry eyes; your healthcare provider may recommend eye drops or a room humidifier. Glasses with an anti-reflective coating may also be recommended to reduce glare by minimizing the amount of light reflecting off the front and back surfaces of your eyeglass lenses.
  - Should we purchase blue-light glasses? Consult your eye doctor to see if you could benefit from special computer glasses. Although there is no evidence that blue-light is harmful to the eyes, it can make it harder for children to fall asleep and contribute to eye strain. On the other hand, using the tips above may help prevent issues —no purchase necessary!

#### References & Resources

https://www.aao.org/newsroom/news-releases/detail/is-too-much-screen-time-

harming-childrens-vision

https://www.aappublications.org/content/35/11/28.6#:~:text=As%2ochildren%20toda v%20become%20more.are%20arranged%20to%20serve%20adults

https://www.allaboutvision.com/en-in/digital-eye-strain/irritated/

https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/eyes/Pages/What-

Too-Much-Screen-Time-Does-to-Your-Childs-Eyes.aspx

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2776336/



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## 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 ENTRNCE 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 'Class of 2021'. If you need information on accessing the group, please contact Ms. Wright at <a href="mailto:swright7@bcps.org">swright7@bcps.org</a>.

#### **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 Class of 2021 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 <a href="mailto:swright7@bcps.org">swright7@bcps.org</a>

#### **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 Class of 2021 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:

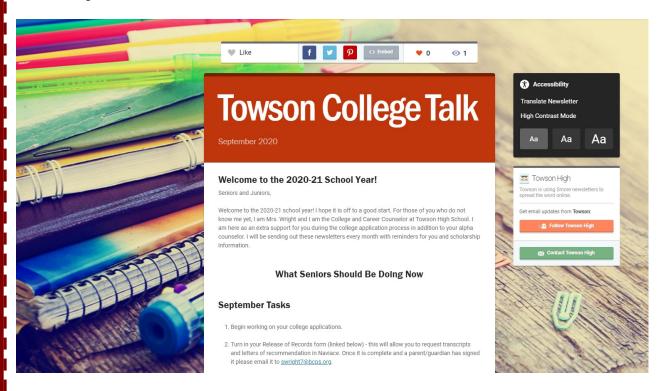
Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Towson College Talk**

September 2020

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: <a href="https://www.smore.com/ym7sa">https://www.smore.com/ym7sa</a>



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/ EdgifieS\_HpBu4IeotfwSgEBJ-ZUMZIEg-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

October, 2020

16 No School for Students

## November, 2020

3	Election	Day -	<b>Schools</b>	and	<b>Offices</b>	Closed
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- 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.



#### Towson High School

69 Cedar Ave Towson, MD 21286

PHONE: 443-43-809-4271

