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STARS to our Staff and Students

Each week, 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 members:

STARS to the **staff** of Towson High School for ranking third overall in the state of Maryland based on the results of the 2012 SAT scores- **Third** in the state and **First** in the county!

STARS to our **custodial team** that did an outstanding job preparing for the opening of school

STARS to **Ms. Brown** for sharing important information related to the Common Core with the PTSA.

STARS to **MS. Mathena** for

her time and efforts with planning and organizing Freshmen Orientation

STARS to **C. Pittman** for returning a lost cell phone

STARS to **Ms. Colbert** for ensuring a safe exit out of the building given an issue with the lighting

STARS to **Mr. Chesser** for taking an hour out of his schedule to explain the mission and accomplishments of the Sports Boosters

STARS to **Ms. Peper** for running an organized, informative, and collaborative PTSA meeting

STARS to **Ms. Hardesty** for presenting the annual training to our staff

STARS to **Mr. Blair** and **Ms. White** for meeting with the administrative team and students of the SGA to discuss ideas for the school year

STARS to **Ms. Frazier** for

working diligently to update money handling procedures STARS to **Mr. Bianco** and **Mr. Ickes** for assisting with technology at our first faculty meeting

STARS to **Mr. Wren, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Olin, and Mr. Weber** for their time and efforts with our members of the Marching Band! What a great way to start the year!

STARS to Mr. Anastasi for videotaping the annual Safety Handbook Presentation

STARS to **Mr. Blair, Ms. Brown, Mr. Collins, Officer Fiedler, Ms. Drake, Ms. Mathena, Ms. Travis, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Hanford, Ms. Kirschenbaum, Mr. Buick, Mr. Rhen, Ms. Fast, Mr. Jones, Mr. Weber, Mr. Knippenberg, Ms. Milligan, Mr. Mooring, Ms. West, Mr. Stange, Mr. Belt, Mr. White, Ms. Zhao, Ms. Waldman** for attending Freshmen Orientation

“Our new vending machines provide healthy choice options for students.”

FIRST WEEK IMPRESSIONS

During our first week of school, I can't say enough about the students, staff, and parents of Towson High School. On the first day of the teacher's return, our Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. David Rhen, welcomed teachers by playing for the staff as they entered the building. Our teachers were provided with ample planning time during the first week of school in order to prepare for the students.

During our first faculty meeting, we watched a brief clip from the movie *Pitch Perfect*. In this clip, a group of college males sing “I Got the Magic in Me.” The purpose of viewing this video was to be reminded there is magic in every one of us and that it is our job as educators to bring out the magic in each of our students. I have witnessed a great deal of what we could refer

to as *magic* during the first days of school. Here are some of the positive accounts of the first week that represent the *excellence* of Towson High!

We opened our doors on Thursday, August 22, 2103 for Freshmen Orientation Night. The entire auditorium was filled to capacity. Valued members of our staff commented on the positive turnout for the event. The involvement of students was the most impressive part of the evening. Individual student representatives from the SGA spoke to the audience and also dedicated their time to assist with tours of the building. Students and staff members also displayed information related to clubs and organizations in the cafeteria.

During the lunch shifts and transitions to classes, our students consistently demonstrated respectful be-

havior. Several upperclassmen went out of their way to welcome their new principal to the school. The students were polite and articulate. As our freshmen ventured through new territory, our staff and students went above and beyond to welcome our new students.

The majority of students truly respect the school and work diligently to keep the facility neat and clean. Speaking of facility, our new vending machines outside the auditorium provide healthy snack selections. Our students seem to be enjoying the offerings.

Thus far, our administrative team has visited many classrooms during the first week. We commended teachers for incorporating movement, higher level questioning and discussion techniques, and hands on opportunities to support student learning.

FIRST WEEK IMPRESSIONS (continued)

Prior to the start of the school year, I encouraged the staff to think about the first day of teaching as if it was the last with the intent of motivating our students to be excited about learning from day one.

My wish is for every student to be challenged to apply and demonstrate understanding, make valuable connections, and feel welcome and supported on a daily basis.

Finally, I want to commend the parents that attended the morning Meet and Greet Session that was hosted by the members of our administrative team during the summer. Our students demonstrate excellence on a daily basis and this excellence is truly a reflection of you!

Thank you for welcoming me to a school that I am proud to call my home! I look forward to working collaboratively with you to enhance Towson High School's Tradition of Excellence.



“Our students demonstrate excellence on a daily basis and this is because of you!”



Sept. 12, 2013

Parents, if you wish to purchase SPIRITWEAR and/or items to show your Towson pride, tonight is the night!

Students created visual representations on name tags in our fine arts classes.

Back to School Night— Thursday, September 12, 2013

We invite you to join us for our annual *Back to School Night*. We will begin the program at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The agenda is as follows:

6:30 p.m. Greetings from the Principal

6:35 p.m. Members of the PTSA

6:40 p.m. Representatives from our Boosters Organizations

6:50 p.m. Student Class Representatives to share plans for school year

7:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Parents and students rotate through classes

7:40 p.m. Evening Adjourns

Representatives from the PTSA and Boosters will be present!



WELCOME BACK FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM!

Towson High School

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Thoughts from our Students

Chyres S. "The mural outside of the school is very interesting and attractive."

Brianna A. "I appreciate how guidance started early with helping seniors with the college application process."

Mateo B. "I think the most impressive thing in this school is the music program. I am part of the Marching Band and it is a solid club. The practice we put into it is amazing."

Rachel B. "My teachers (Mr. Dase, Mr. Zelony, Mr. Brown)

are excited to teach us a lot before moving on to college!"

Ladan S. "I appreciate the fact that the teachers are there if you get lost and can help if you need it."

Molly D. "All of my teachers have been really helpful this first week of school."

Paige C. "I really appreciate the new vending machines and the healthy alternatives they offer."

Killian M. "The teachers at THS are very interested in their subjects and willing to help students

understand when they are struggling."

Barb M. "I really like how most of the teachers understand how most seniors are nervous about college and are willing to help."

Julie R. "The welcoming and friendly environment by staff and students is greatly appreciated."

Kenny Y. "Here at Towson High, we have an awesome athletic program for sports such as baseball, football, and basketball."

Grant O. "At Towson, everyone is hard-working – from the staff all the way down to the students."