

September 2008
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Issue 2

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September 2008	Governor Thomas Johnson	Principal	Assistant Principals	Patriot Connection
Volume 3	High School	Marlene A. Tarr	Jack Bentley	September 2008
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have had a wonderful opening! Teachers have had students actively engaged in instruction from day one and are to be commended for helping students make a smooth transition between summer vacation and the school year. During the first week of school, administrators visited all Block 1 classes to review the Student Handbook to remind students of school expectations.

Parent Conferences will be held on October 14 (in the evening) and October 16 (in the afternoon). We strongly encourage you to bring your child to the conferences. With the student present, all parties hear the same information and can agree on the same course of action. After all, it is the student who has to earn the credit. His or her input is essential.

Families are invited to visit their children’s classes on parent conference days on October 14 (11:30-2:20) & October 16 (7:30-10:50). Please be aware that you may need to stand since additional seating is not available in the majority of classrooms. When you arrive at school, please remember to check in at the front office and pick up a Visitor’s Badge before proceeding to your child’s classes.

Keeping with the ideals of the Olympics, I share the following quote with you...

“Since the first torch relay in 1936, thousands of people across the nations have come together to be part of this great Olympic tradition. Passing from hand-to-hand, the torch represents what the Games are about-teamwork, good will and incredible results. When we work together with determination and spirit, we always achieve success.”

We look forward to working in partnership with all of our TJ families in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Marlene A. Tarr, Principal

FROM THE PTSA

Dear TJ Family,

Welcome back to another great school year! Through your membership and donations we are able to provide academic letters, an increase in the amount for scholarships at each grade level, the Reflections program that supports arts and communications, and hospitality to our teachers and staff. We appreciate your membership and support for the students and staff at TJ. Please join us in membership so that these wonderful programs can continue. Most importantly enjoy this year with your child. The time passes by so quickly!

Cindy Small, President, PTSA, *Every Child. One Voice*

VISION STATEMENT

The Governor Thomas Johnson High School community educates all students to become caring, respectful, responsible citizens and family members.

MISSION STATEMENT

Fostering Self-Assurance
Striving for Success

GOING HOME ON A DIFFERENT BUS?

If your student needs to ride a different bus (with another student), we need a note from the parents of both students giving permission and a telephone number where we can confirm the notes. These notes should be brought to the Attendance Office at the beginning of the day. We cannot process such notes when buses are loading.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Deadline for the submission of articles for the next newsletter is October 15, 2008. Legible copy should be directed to the attention of Patricia Sampson at 240-236-8302 or patricia.sampson@fcps.org.

WORK PERMITS

Work permits are available in the Guidance Office. Please be sure that we can read the bottom copy of your work permit since we cannot verify information unless all copies are legible. Also, please be aware that failure to complete the form correctly may result in delay.

VISITOR PASSES

When you visit the school during the school day, please be sure to sign in and pick up a Visitor's Badge. Even if you are a "regular," new staff may not be aware of who you are. The visitor badges help us to determine who has permission to be in the building. **If you want to see a teacher, please let the office staff determine if the teacher is available.** We don't want to disrupt instruction. Many thanks for your cooperation in respecting instructional time and helping us to keep our building safe and secure.

FCPS COMPUTER POLICIES

FCPS policies for student use of computer labs, including the library computer lab, are as follows:

- Students **MUST** be supervised by their teacher.
- Students **CANNOT** check email.
- Students **CANNOT** download anything onto the computer.
- Students **CANNOT** use CDs or flash drives to transfer information. This minimizes the spread of computer viruses.
- Students **MUST** have the signed Acceptable Use Regulation form (in their planner) visible when using a computer.

Students can use the Internet for teacher-supervised research.

BUSES AND CARS

Students, staff, and parents are asked **not to break into the bus line at arrival and dismissal times**. The buses have priority at these times. Cars must wait until all the buses clear before exiting.

ACTIVITY BUSES

Activity buses are provided on **Tuesday and Thursday** most weeks throughout the school year. These buses leave TJ at 3:40 pm and take students to central drop-off points throughout the TJ feeder. This service is free of charge and allows students **to remain after school for tutoring only**. Every student must present a voucher prior to boarding an activity bus. Students without a voucher will have to indicate with whom they stayed after-school and parents will be contacted if the reason cannot be verified. For more information and routes, please call the school.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Please remember that teachers are given the courtesy of 48 hours notice for homework requests. Therefore, requests for homework should not be made for absences of less than 5 days.

FIND OUT FIRST

We have a TJ-based version of Find Out First. You can automatically receive announcements from TJ via your email. To sign up, visit our website at <http://gtjhs.fcps.org> and click on the Find Out First envelope. You can listen to our morning announcements online. Go to TJ's website, <http://gtjhs.fcps.org> and click on the "Morning Announcements" button.

PARENTAL HELP

Help your school and school system keep our children safe. If you are home during the day and see unusual activity at a neighbor's home (teenagers coming and going, cars parked everywhere) report it to the police. Unsupervised time has the potential to lead to undesirable activities. Let's work together to keep our children safe.

**STUDENT HOURS
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Please be advised that, in the morning, the building is not open until 6:55AM. Students arriving before that time will be required to remain outside.

In the afternoon, students may not remain in the building beyond 2:45 PM unless under the direct supervision of a staff member.

FCPS PINNACLE GRADES ONLINE

FCPS provides the Pinnacle Grades Online service to parents/guardians of children in grades 6-12. All Pinnacle Grades Online passwords remain the same as last year and cannot be changed. However, ALL email addresses registered last year in Pinnacle Grades Online were deleted to eliminate many addresses no longer valid (especially with the Adelphia to Comcast change). To get EMAIL from Pinnacle Grades Online, you MUST register your email address for the new school year at <http://grades.fcps.org>. If you have questions, please contact our school. It can take a few weeks for your changes to be processed.

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries offer access to Pinnacle. Librarians have been trained to assist parents to view their child's grades. Computer access is also available in the TJ Guidance Office.

Access your student's grades online anytime! [Http://grades.fcps.org](http://grades.fcps.org), click enter to begin. Enter your student's ID number (ask your student for this). Password: Student ID number. Click Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Click Request Report.

To have grades sent to your email account automatically:

1. Log on to Pinnacle.
2. Click on the "Email Signup" icon under the "Options" area.
3. Input email address and Pinnacle will guide you through the rest of the process.

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, a high school student must have earned a minimum of a 2.00 GPA and no "F" grades. Grades used to determine eligibility are recorded on report cards (term grades; not final courses grades) and interim reports. Grades used to determine ineligibility are the nine-week term grades (report cards). Eligibility for fall extracurricular activities is determined by the fourth term (not final course grades) from the previous year. An ineligible student may practice but may not accompany the team, group, or be excused from any class for the activity concerned. Extracurricular activities are those school-sponsored activities in which the student represents the school (this includes club days and field trips). When a student believes a procedural error has occurred through a miscalculation, omission, or an inaccurate reporting in the awarding of a grade, an appeal may be made to the school principal

GRADUATION 2009

Seniors are advised that the following dates have been set for graduation related activities. **Attendance is required** at all of these functions for any senior planning to **march in the graduation ceremony.**

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 27, 2009 | Practice
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. |
| May 28, 2009 | Senior Awards Ceremony
3:00 p.m.
(Seniors arrive at 1:30 p.m.) |
| May 29, 2009 | Practice
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. |
| June 1, 2009 | Graduation 7:00 p.m. @ Mt. St. Mary's University |

UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRUG USE

To report an underage party where alcohol or drugs may be served to youth under 21 years of age, please call the Party Tip Hot line at 301-694-1318. Your tip is confidential. You may save the life of a friend or a child you love.

This message is part of the Frederick County Teen Safe Driving Initiative and the Combating Underage Drinking Program. For further information, contact the Task Force Coordinator at 301-631-3289.

YMCA REFUGE

If students feel harassed or threatened during their walk to and from school, they are encouraged to take refuge at the YMCA. The YMCA has agreed to provide a safe harbor for any TJHS student in need of assistance. A member of the staff will help the student contact TJHS and/or the student's parent/guardian.

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences are October 14 and 16. Sign up days will be October 1st (from 7am-7pm) and 2nd (from 7am-2:30pm). Guidance Counselors and Administrators are also available for meetings on Parent Conference days.

HELP NEEDED/VOLUNTEERS

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! This year we again need the help of parents and grandparents. Here are some of the ways you can help the school, faculty and students as a volunteer: Career Center, Band, Sports, Teacher's Dinners' at Parent-Teacher conferences, and Newsletter Assembly.

We ask those who volunteer to keep track of their hours of volunteering. We keep track of the hours from May 2008- April 2009. Another way to help is to join our wonderful PTSA. If you have any questions feel free to contact (Anita Miller) e-mail- brandysoreo@comcast.net. Anita Miller, Volunteer Coordinator

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO RESOLVE CONCERNS

If you have a concern or disagree with a decision made about your child's instruction, discipline, safety or other matter, it is important to pursue resolution in the right order. Usually parents find satisfactory resolution closest to the source of the concern. Please follow this sequence, starting with #1 and proceeding to the next level as necessary if your concern is not satisfactorily resolved:

1. Your child's teacher or guidance counselor, as appropriate
2. School assistant principal or principal
3. Central Office instructional director or the appropriate department supervisor if your concern is about a non-school matter such as transportation or food service
4. Associate Superintendent (elementary or middle/high, as appropriate)
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

The Superintendent and Board of Education will address unresolved issues only after they have been explored by the correct sequence of school personnel. When communicating by letter, fax or email, please send your correspondence only to the appropriate individual in the sequence.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

FCPS has implemented a new student information system (eSchool) for the 2008-2009 school year. Schools will enter attendance information in the student information system, including daily absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals. eSchool will calculate whether the student receives credit for a full-day or a half-day of attendance based on how many minutes the student is present during the school day as per the MD State Department of Education attendance regulation. (See below.)

Students Scheduled For a Full Day

A student is counted present for a full day if the student is in attendance four hours or more of the school day. A student is counted present for ½ day if in attendance for at least two hours of the school day, but less than four hours.

Students Scheduled For a Partial Day

A student scheduled for less than a full day is to be counted present based on the amount of time he/she is scheduled. Example: A student scheduled for a two hour block of time will be counted present for a full day if the

student is in attendance for that entire block of time. If the student is absent for that entire block of time, the student will be counted absent for a full day. A student scheduled for a two hour block of time will be counted present for ½ day if the student is in attendance for one hour.

TJHS MARCHING BAND SUPPORT AND FUNDRAISERS

The TJHS Marching Band Boosters is working hard to raise money for the purchase of new Marching Uniforms. We will be holding several fundraisers throughout the year with the hopes of reaching our \$60,000.00 goal by December 2009. TJHS Band Boosters is hosting the 2008 County Marching Band Festival on October 20 in the evening on the stadium field. On December 13, we will have Breakfast with Santa, including crafts for the children and picture taking with Santa in the TJHS Cafeteria. All the proceeds will be going to the Uniform Fund. The Winter Concert will be on December 16 in the auditorium featuring the TJHS Band and Concert Choir. We will hold a Silent Basket Auction with the drawing held immediately after the concert. The TJHS Marching Band Placed 6th in the Atlantic Coast Conference in the fall of the 2007 -2008 school year. The Concert Band received all 1's at the State Music Adjudication Festival in the Spring of 2008. Please come and support this award winning TJHS Band Program in our quest to purchase new Marching Uniforms. For any information on the GTJHS Marching Band visit the TJ Band Website: tjband.org. Anyone wishing to make donations to the Uniform Fund for your high school band can find forms for contribution on the website.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Make-Up Day is October 10, 2008.

SENIOR YEARBOOK PHOTOS

Seniors - If you missed your scheduled date for the June Senior Picture Days and the Make-up dates in September at TJ, you must contact LifeTouch Photography at (800) 445-1189 to have your photo taken at the LifeTouch studios for the Yearbook. **All Seniors must have their photos taken by October 31, 2008 if they want to have their photo in the Yearbook.**

2008-09 YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Reserve your copy in October to guarantee your copy of the 2009 Yearbook! **Yearbooks will be on sale during all lunch shifts beginning October 1st in the cafeteria.** The cost of the Yearbook is \$45. Please make checks payable to TJ High School. Payments may be made in full or a \$10 dollar deposit will reserve a copy of the Yearbook. Yearbooks will only be on sale at school during the month of October. Yearbooks will be available for pickup in May. Remember to save your receipt for the May pick-up of the Yearbook.

Yearbooks may also be purchased online from Herff Jones beginning October 1, 2008 through December 15, 2008. If you are interested in purchasing a Yearbook online go to www.yearbooks.biz. There is an additional \$3.00 administrative fee that is charged for ordering the Yearbook online.

BIENVENIDOS A UN NUEVO AÑO ESCOLAR

Una vez más queremos trabajar con Uds. para el bienestar de sus hijos. Les invitamos a nuestra primera reunión que tendrá lugar el jueves, el 2 de octubre de 6:00-7:30pm. En esta ocasión vamos a discutir los reglamentos y la organización de la escuela.

Ms Miriam Moore es nuestra intermediaria de la comunidad hispana. Ms Monica Shuman es la coordinadora para los asuntos escolares de los estudiantes hispanohablantes.

Esperamos que asistan a nuestra reunión para discutir el éxito de sus hijos. Si tienen preguntas, por favor, comuníquense con Ms Moore al número 240-236-8359.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

On Thursday, August 14, forty GTJHS staff members and forty-one student counselors enthusiastically welcomed 355 ninth graders and 330 parents to the Freshman Orientation for the Class of 2012. The students were greeted by the Patriot Marching Band Drum-Line and were entertained by faculty emcees Ms. Mary Kaye McDonald and Mr. Tom Brown.

While the students were learning of the origins of the Patriot and the student guidelines for the high school, their parents were engaged in discussions with TJ Principal Marty Tarr and a panel of student and faculty representatives.

Many thanks to the GTJHS SGA and the North End Civic Association for their financial support of the program and to everyone who added to the success of the 2008 Freshman Orientation!

Student Counselors: **Tairi Mena, Connie Mou, Courtney Ward, Erika Saunders, Isabel Finkelstein, Colleen Brown, Brian Leech, Stephanie Van, Chris Olmstead, Mae Thinn, Zach Brown, Franchia Everhart, Callison Sims, Jenny Shipley, Kelsey Spencer, Anthony Stafford, Stewart Reich, Kayla Marrie, Shelby Sponyee, Ashanti Wilson, Alex Proffitt, Evan Bjorndal, Stacey Niehoff, Jill Guthridge, Simon Arendt, Jarrick Stockton, Alyssa Molina, Carly Smith, Danielle Allin, Priscilla Maxwell, Bianca Wallace, Shannon Warren, Cody Semler, Nick Forbes, Marquis Woodyard, Nancy Terry, Kiri Rowan, Savannah Hudson, Denziel Mapp.**

Drum-Line: **Luis Zayas, Mark Trifone, Kyle Kohler, Kelsey Spencer, Alan Pettigrew, Jenny Shipley, Max Gorranson, Jonathan Beaudoin, Tyraill Demar, Calvin Daniels.**

Staff: **Glenda Segreti, Amy Schade, Phil Duddy, Pam Meehan, Tom Brown, Kathleen Carmack, Kate Ehrlich, Vivienne Werner, Liz Reich, Charlet Remus, Kathy Hofer, Mary Kaye McDonald, Tammy Middleton, Kate Walters, Ambereen Khan-Baker, Nick Snyder, Anna Boyer, Mary Skowronski, Kim Parry, Jennifer Perry, Christy Hopkins, Miriam Moore, Nancy Jones, Judy Mullen, Vince Poska, Eden Crowe, Steve Nibbs, Jessica Custer, Cindy Holley, Paul Andra, Danny Cleveland, Marty Tarr, Jack Bentley, Jet Reid, Linda Weinstein, Mike Chavez, Drew Kibler, Monica Shuman, Marilyn Finn, Carrie Mehl.**

MILITARY RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION

Federal law requires school systems that receive assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon request, access to secondary students' names, addresses and telephone listings. The requirement may be waived under the following conditions. Secondary school students or their parents who do not wish this information released to military recruiters must annually:

- Deny permission on the Student Information (Emergency) Card and
- Return the completed and signed card to the school by September 30 or within 30 days of enrollment at that high school

Student Information Cards are available at high schools and at www.fcps.org. Please direct questions to the high school administration.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We want to make sure all of our students and staff are safe. The school has scheduled 12 drills this year. At least two of the drills will be some type of evacuation drill. This type of exercise is important so that in the event that an emergency evacuation is needed, staff and students remain calm and follow the school's plan. TJHS will continue to work hard to maintain a safe learning environment for our students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns regarding emergency preparedness, please contact Paul Andra, School Business Manager.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Please be aware that "official documentation" is required for all absences after a student accumulates 10 absences (excused and unexcused) in a year. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the student's assistant principal. "Official documentation" means a note from a doctor or some other official source such as the court, a lawyer, an agency, or a therapist. Please work with us to encourage the students in your home to practice good attendance habits throughout the year.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING

The Student Service Learning Program is open to students interested in helping community agencies or serving as tutors to peers or students in middle schools and elementary schools. Students describe their intended service program on an application form. All applications are reviewed for approval by the Service Learning Coordinator, Steve Nibbs.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

Students doing volunteer work at community agencies (outside of the school-based class) may be eligible for the Meritorious Service Award given by the State of Maryland. All paperwork and documentation for this service must be returned to Steve Nibbs. If you have questions, you can call Coach Nibbs at 240-236-8233.

CLUBS

Is your child in a club or activity yet? All students are expected to be involved in at least one club or activity.

RISING AND SHINING STARS

TJ annually recognizes Rising and Shining Stars, Iron and Bronze patriots, and Red, White & Blue Patriot Awards. Students receiving the Rising and Shining Star awards are nominated by classroom teachers, club sponsors, or athletic coaches based on not only grades, but also attitude and effort. The Iron and Bronze Patriot awards recognize perfect and exemplary attendance. Red, White & Blue awards recognize students who exemplify the Pillars of Character. Names of honorees are posted on signs on office windows and on the insert in this newsletter. All of these students are to be commended for their desire for and pursuit of excellence in their activities at TJ. Congratulations!

PTSA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Don't forget to apply for the PTSA Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to provide financial support for TJHS students to pursue academic programs. All applicants must be PTSA members by March 1st each year to participate. The program is open to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Each student, who is chosen randomly from each class, must be in good academic standing to be eligible. Application forms for the Scholarship Program are available in the guidance office and must be submitted by April 1st. A student who is chosen must show on the application what the anticipated expense will be i.e. college textbooks, SAT fee, AP testing fee or books, tuition for high school or college courses, arts and sciences or band fees are also acceptable. Please remember to sign up as a PTSA member early and then apply for the scholarship before April 1st, 2009. It's free money!

CONGRATULATIONS

The Art Department, National Art Honor Society and TJHS congratulate **Jolissa Gue**. Jolissa participated in the "Art's a Ball" contest sponsored by the Frederick Arts Council in collaboration with the Frederick Keys. Jolissa's baseball was one of the fourteen baseballs selected for a Silent Auction held on August 29, 2008.

ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

The Arts and Communications Academy (ACA) at GTJHS offers Frederick County high school juniors and seniors, with an interest in the arts, the opportunity to take exceptional classes in the field of arts and communications.

ACA SHOWCASE

The Advanced Theatre and Music Studies students will have performances in combination with an Advanced Visual Art Studies Art Show to showcase students' abilities to the community.

October 23, January 8, March 24, and May 14
6:30 Advanced Visual Art Studies Art Show
7:00 Advanced Theatre and Music Studies Performances
Governor Thomas Johnson High School Auditorium

YEARBOOK PHOTOS

During first semester all TJ students are encouraged to submit photos for possible inclusion in this year's Yearbook. A box is located for photos in the Main Office. When submitting photos, please write the names of each student on the back of the photo. Photos may also be emailed to amy.schade@fcps.org. Photos sent through email need to be High Resolution (DPI of 300). DO NOT TURN IN ORIGINAL PHOTOS AS PHOTOS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

YEARBOOK PARENT ADS FOR SENIORS

The Yearbook will be selling parent ads for Seniors only beginning Sept. 25, 2008. Seniors will receive a flyer during the Senior Class Meeting on September 25th. Parent Ads will be on Sale until November 25, 2008. Photos can be turned into Ms. Schade or can be emailed to her at amy.schade@fcps.org. Photos sent through email need to be High Resolution (DPI of 300). DO NOT TURN IN ORIGINAL PHOTOS AS PHOTOS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

Senior Ad Price List: 1/2 Page Ad = \$150.00, 1/4 Page Ad = \$85.00, 1/8 Page Ad = \$50.00

'09 Senior T-shirt - Design Entry Form

Draw your t-shirt design below or attach your design to this entry form on a separate piece of paper. Indicate whether your design is for the “all student” t-shirt or the “just girls” t-shirt. A winning design will be chosen in each category and given to the printer to graphically duplicate the artwork to print on this year’s official senior t-shirts. The students who submit the winning designs will win a free t-shirt with their design. All entries must be submitted by October 31, 2008 to the athletic booster mailbox in the main office. **Winners will be announced during the homecoming game and notified via phone and e-mail.** Good luck!

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Which t-shirt category (circle one): all student design just girl design

