



Patuxent Valley Middle School

Howard County Middle School/ Gifted and Talented Education Program



G/T Students on the move!

- 6 th grade research class students are going to Arbitron, a research company based in Columbia, to learn about research designs.
- Research class students also enjoyed a presentation by Mrs. Janette Lamproon. Students participated in her "Tools of the Historian" workshop.
- Students from the debate team will compete against Harper's Choice on Nov. 21.

What's New in the G/T Program

**HCPSS
Computer Learning Month
Contests**

**Entry Deadline to PVMS
November 13, 2006**

Categories:

Graphic Arts
Computer Generated

Desktop Publishing
Submit an original written product in fiction or non-fiction about a topic of the student's choice.

Multimedia Contest
PowerPoint
Others must be self-extracting (ex. Must contain a player)

For additional information, contact Mrs. Cephas at 410-880-5840 or jcephas@hcpss.org

All students can do online research. Students in the 6th grade G/T research class have projects and they are using "yaholigans" as well as www.askjeeves.com

Student Resource Center, Jr.
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/ltweb/less71097>
Password: jess61097

Students at PVMS can also use the following sites at home as well as at school for research investigations. Please keep these sites handy.

World Book Online
<http://www.worldbookonline.com>
User name: hoco
Password: worldbook

PVMS Media Center
Online Reference Services
For Home Access
Type in the listed URL's and Passwords

CultureGrams
<http://online.culturegrams.com>
Password: howardcps

PVMS – Access Catalog (PAC)
<http://pac.howard.k12.us/hcps/ms/pvms.htm>
Password: 21042

Howard County Library
<http://www.library.org>
Username: library card barcode
Pin: last 4 digits phone number

SIRS Knowledge Source
<http://sks.sirs.com>
Password: 21042

NoodleTools
<http://www.noodletools.com/login.php>
Username: Hcstudent

Answers to frequently asked questions about the G/T Program

Nominations for taking the G/T test for the 2007 – 2008 school year will begin December 5, 2006. Students who are currently placed in a G/T class do not need to be tested for an additional class. Teachers and parents can request a possible portfolio placement for a child.

Students currently in a 7th grade math class that is not a G/T math class will not be able to take G/T geometry in 8th grade. Students will only be eligible for English, science or social studies.

Seminars offered by the G/T teacher are open to all students.

Read all about it!

Contact your child's social studies teacher or Mrs. Cephas, the PVMS G/T Resource teacher.



G/T Testing Timeline for the 2007 – 2008 School Year

- Teachers and parents can nominate students between December 11, 2006 and January 4, 2007.
- Parents should submit a letter or send an e-mail to Mrs. Cephas requesting that their child be given the School and College Ability Test for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
- The test will be given between February 1, 2007 and February 16, 2007. Specific dates will be announced soon.
- Parents will receive the results of the test by mail from the G/T office on April 5, 2007.
- Students transferring into Howard County or who missed the winter test date will be able to take the “make-up test” one Saturday in May at a designated school site.

During the 2006 – 2007 school year, National History Day invites students to research topics related to the theme **Triumph & Tragedy in History**. As is the case each year, the theme is broad enough to encourage investigations of topics ranging from local history to world history, and from ancient time to the recent past.

To understand the historical importance of their topics students need to ask questions about time, place and context, cause and effect; change over time; events happened, but also why they occurred and what factors combined to their development. Description of the topic must also include an analysis of information and conclusions about how the topic influenced and was influenced by people, ideas or events.

For National History Day 2007, students are encouraged to select an individual idea or event and demonstrate how and why their topic was a triumph and/or a tragedy in history. A student may choose to focus on the discovery of penicillin as a historic and medical triumph. Or students may decide to study the tragic impact of the Great Russian Famine of the 1890s. In these cases, the subject could be presented as either a triumph or tragedy.

One person's triumph was often another person's tragedy. For example, the American Civil War was a great triumph for the North over the South, of unionism over sectionalism, of freedom over slavery. But the war also took a terrible toll in human lives.

Sample Topics:

Rachel Carson: Banning of DDT; Vincent Van Gogh: The Triumph and Tragedy of Genius; Wilma Rudolph: Polio Survivor to Olympic Medalist; Cesar Chavez: Migrant Labor Reform; The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roanoke Settlement; NASA Shuttle Development; San Francisco Earthquake and Fire: Change Born from Tragedy; Creation of the State of Israel; Relocation of Japanese Americans During World War II; Martin Luther King: Non-Violent Protest; Hay Market Riot: Labor's Tragedy; Great Fire of London: Rebuilding Act of 1667; Dorothea Dix and Mental Health Reform; Buffalo Soldier: Opening the West.

From the Patuxent Valley Parent Gifted and Talent Liaison

We have received GT Resource information that will help us to plan and enrich our children during this school year. Ms. Cephas has planned many activities and I urge you to contact her or me for more information on the options available.

- There is a website specifically designed to provide an understanding of what type of learner your child is. Please take the time to visit this site to help your child develop their study habits more fully. www.learning-styles-online.com is a source recommended at the last GT Parent Advisory Meeting. The site lists about 70 questions that can help assess learning style(s).
- If you have not already joined the Yahoo group for Parents of GT students, please take the time. This site offers real-time data for parents. Discussion groups are provided, and you can also see what activities are occurring around the county, providing a robust idea of the options available to gifted students. You do not need to have a Yahoo account to use this resource and once you join the group the email can be sent to you in the method of your choosing. From www.yahoo.com please type in the search engine GTAC_hcps.org. You will have to request permission to join. Permission is granted to all who request.
- For any parents who are interested in links to Hammond High School, it is important to note that there are upcoming college fairs at the school. Please contact Erica Washington at 443-956-2660 for dates and times.
- Parents -- what are your talents? Is there an area of the gifted program that you have an interest in assisting? How about the science fair? Cultural arts programs? Journalism? Videography? Organizational skills? Whatever your talent ...or lack there of... we could use your support to assure our children are able to make the most of their PVMS GT education. We are looking for parents of gifted children to help with upcoming events. If you are able to spare an hour or 2 a week, a month, or a year, we can use our help. The more time and effort we as parents can put into our children's lives the more enriched they will become. There are many upcoming events. Please contact Ms. Cephas and show your support of the gifted programs.

We are also looking to have quarterly parent meetings to hand information to parents and give you a forum to speak out about your likes and dislikes. We want your feedback. We want your time. We want to make this the best GT program possible. Please look for upcoming announcements to be sent home you're your children regarding our next meeting.

Many thanks,
Erica Washington

