

Tuscarora High School
5312 Ballenger Creek Pike
Frederick, MD 21703



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September 2013 September 2013

"Achieve Excellence Through Commitment and Service"

Tuscarora High School

Main Office

240-236-6400

Fax Number

240-236-6401

Principal

Kathleen Schlappal

Assistant Principals

Michael Dillman

Gwendolyn Dorsey

Tamara Lamberson

Cynthia Zimmerman

Guidance Department

Arnie Coleman

Carla Thomas

Christina Wahl

Kay Wilson

Website

<http://education.fcps.org/ths/>

Twitter

@kschlappal

Ten Years Strong

Tuscarora High School begins this school year "Ten Years Strong" with a current enrollment of 1505. This includes a freshman class of 414 students.

Wall of Fame

THS has recently installed a Wall of Fame in the hallway just outside the Main Office. The purpose of this display is to recognize students for significant achievements in the areas of academics, agriculture, career and technology, performing arts, visual arts, athletics and service hours. A group of staff and students met throughout the past school year to discuss and establish guiding criteria for this display. Be sure to check it out the next time you are in the building.

Student Assemblies

During the first week of school the administrative team met with all students in small group assemblies to welcome them and share important information about opportunities, resources and school policies. By this time every student should have received a THS planner and an FCPS Calendar Handbook. The planner is a useful tool for helping students stay organized and is utilized as a hall pass when students must leave the classroom. The county calendar contains important information about student rights and responsibilities as well as school system policies and procedures.

PSAT

All 10th graders and registered students in 9th and 11th grade will take the PSAT on October 16th. The PSAT is important for 11th graders because it is used for National Merit Scholarship determination. It is also great practice for the SAT.

Web Page Resources

Please check the school website frequently for important and timely information. Direct links to the Pinnacle grading program, our staff directory and teacher web pages are easily accessible from this site. Daily announcements are posted here as well.

Pinnacle

Pinnacle password letters were sent home with students. If you did not receive this information, please call the school for assistance. After logging into the student's account, parents can request email updates from Pinnacle by following the link on the left side of the page.

Interims

Interim Reports will be distributed to students on Monday, September 30th. Term I ends on October 24th.

Welcome New Staff

Ms. Kelli Autz is a Frederick County native who has taught English in FCPS for 24 years. She earned her A.A. from FCC, a B.A. from Towson State University and her Masters Degree from Hood College.

Ms. Kristi Bender is a school therapist who will be working with students in our Pyramid program.

Mr. Chris Coughlin joins the Math Department following a successful internship experience at THS last year. Chris graduated from Mount Saint Mary's University.

He has traveled extensively through Europe.

Ms. Dorothy Farmer, earned her B.S. in Biology from VCU. She worked in several laboratories and the field of forensic science before earning her teaching credential from Hood College. She taught at Walkersville High School prior to transferring to THS.

Ms. Farmer is looking forward to sharing her experiences and love of science with our students.

Ms. Elizabeth Forbes recently earned her Master's in School Counseling from McDaniel College. She is a Frederick County native and has taught at Ballenger Creek Middle and Oakdale High School. Ms. Forbes is our Student Support Teacher.

Ms. Leann Lenhart is a Special Education Teacher who was with us much of last year as a long-term substitute. Ms. Lenhart graduated *cum laude* from with her certification in Social Studies but discovered her passion for Special Education. She loves to travel and has visited more than ten countries.

Ms. Lauren Rowland recently joined FCPS as a Speech and Language Pathologist. She worked at North Frederick Elementary, Urbana Elementary and Urbana Middle Schools last year.

Ms. Meghan Schickton is new to the Special Education Department at THS. She earned her B.S. from Towson University.

Ms. Kelly Spelman graduated from Messiah College and joins our PE Department.

She is an avid sports fan and has traveled to ten different countries.

Ms. Christina Wahl is an experienced school counselor who is new to THS this year. Ms. Wahl

Ms. Patricia Westgate joins our Special Education Department. Ms. Westgate is an experienced FCPS teacher who transferred to THS from Heather Ridge School.

Ms. Caroline Baker, THS Class of 2008, is completing a long-term substitute position for math teacher Ms. Ashley Fisher who is on maternity leave. Ms. Baker who holds a THS diving record, was also a diver and record holder at Towson University where she earned her B.S. in Mathematics.

Ms. Amber Lange, R.N. is our school nurse and will work closely with our Health Room Tech, Mr. Bruce Thompson, to serve our students.

FCPS Curriculum NOW

You have probably heard the words "Common Core." But do you know that the Common Core is not a curriculum?

Common Core standards are benchmarks or general guidelines that a partnership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association launched with parents, school administrators and educators in many states across the country to help students become college and career ready.

Common Core state standards do not tell our teachers what or how to teach; they simply outline the skills that all students should master to help them:

- Think critically
- Innovate
- Cooperate
- Make decisions

Curriculum NOW is the FCPS curriculum that we prepared for meeting the state standards.

Find out more: www.fcps.org/curriculumnow

Top 10 Things Parents Need to Know about the Common Core State Standards

New educational standards, called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), are being implemented in all Maryland public schools beginning in the 2013-14 school year. The CCSS are a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The standards define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce. The CCSS raise the bar for student achievement and will help Maryland build a world-class education system.

Why do we need new educational standards and what do they mean for Maryland students?

Here is a list of the top ten facts about the Common Core State Standards all parents should know.

#1

The goal of the CCSS is college and workforce readiness for all students.

As students progress through the grades, they will build the skills and knowledge they will need to be prepared for college-level coursework and the demands of the 21st century workplace. Students will receive an education that not only leads to a high school diploma, but also to success in college, career, and life after graduation.

#2

States led the effort to develop the CCSS, ~~not~~ the federal government.

The nation's governors and education commissioners collaborated with teachers, researchers, education experts, and members of the higher education and business communities to design and develop the standards. Individual states were able to choose if they wanted to adopt the CCSS and, to date, a total of 46 states (including Maryland) and the District of Columbia have done so.

#3

The CCSS are not a curriculum and do not tell teachers how to teach.

Educational standards, like the CCSS, provide the foundation for a curriculum – establishing what students need to learn, but not dictating how the standards should be taught. In Maryland, State education experts and teachers have worked to translate the CCSS into a new State curriculum, which will guide instruction of the standards.

Teachers will create lesson plans based on the new curriculum and tailor how they teach to the specific needs of their students. The new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum will replace the State's previous curriculum beginning in the 2013-14 school year.

For more information go to: mdk12.org

#4

Better standards call for better assessments.

New tests are being developed to measure the critical content and skills of the CCSS. Maryland is part of a consortium of states, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), working together to develop a common set of tests aligned to the CCSS. The PARCC assessments will test writing skills in each grade, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will take the new assessments on computers, allowing teachers to see test results quickly and adjust classroom instruction to the needs of their students.

Homecoming 2013

9/16: Kickball games, 3:00 softball field

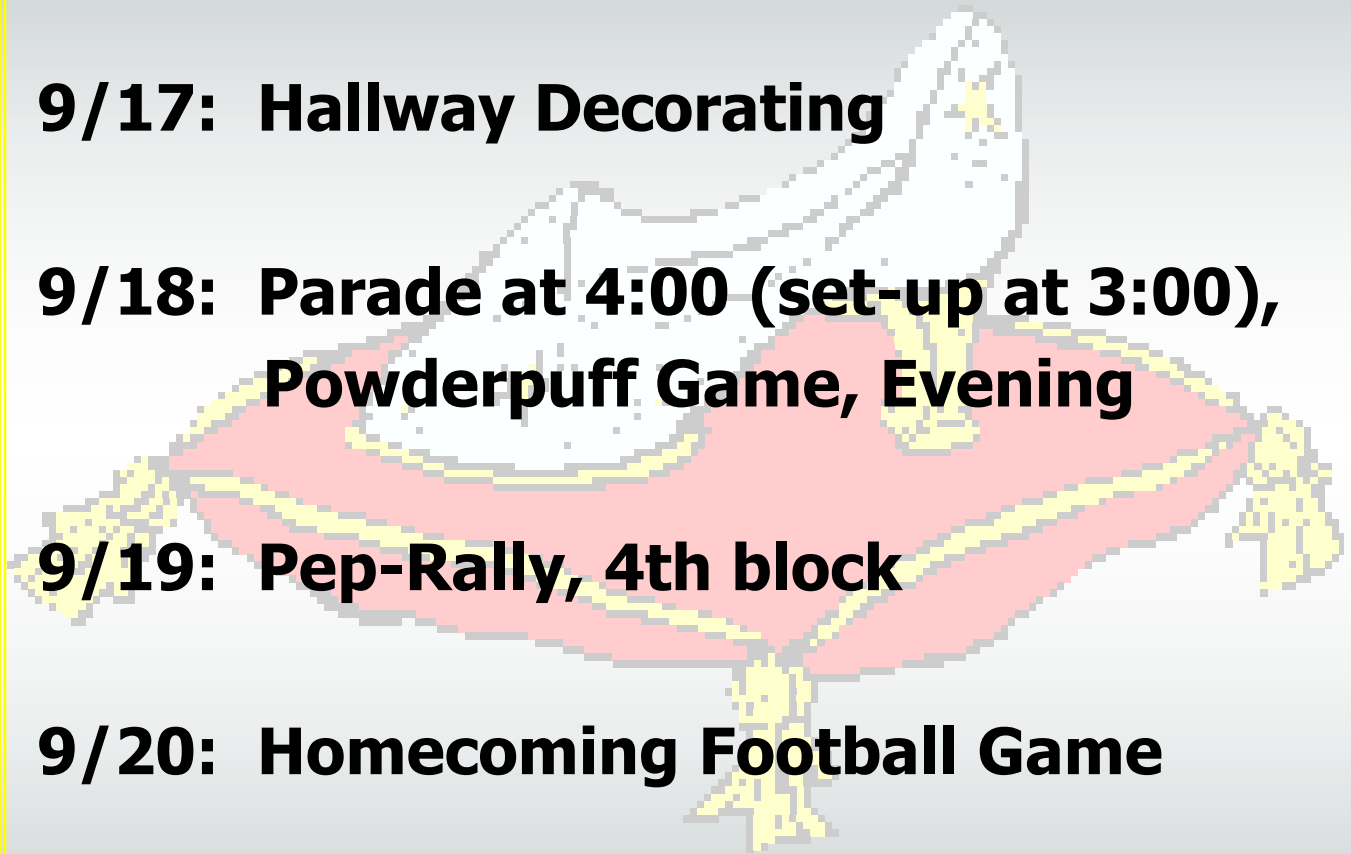
9/17: Hallway Decorating

**9/18: Parade at 4:00 (set-up at 3:00),
Powderpuff Game, Evening**

9/19: Pep-Rally, 4th block

9/20: Homecoming Football Game

9/21: Homecoming Dance, 8:00-11:00



SPIRIT WEEK 2013

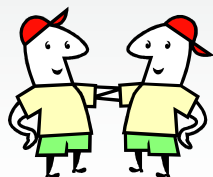


Let's begin with a spirit day pre-Spirit Week!!!

Friday, September 13: Jersey Day/Favorite Team Day



Monday, September 16: Superhero Day



Tuesday, September 17: Twin/Favorite Couple Day



Wednesday, September 18: Dress-Up Day



Thursday, September 19: Class Color Spirit Day

- Freshmen: White
- Sophomores: Black
- Juniors: Gray
- Seniors: Green

News From the Health Room

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the registered nurse for Tuscarora High School, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a registered nurse employed by the Frederick County Health Department, School Health Program. I am also the registered nurse at Tuscarora Elementary. My responsibilities include health appraisals, health counseling, communicable disease prevention, crisis intervention, health education and referrals for health needs. I work closely with school administration, faculty, medical providers and parents to develop plans of care for students with medical needs.

Your child's school has a health room staffed by a health room technician. If your child becomes injured or sick during the school day, basic first aid or medical attention will be provided. The health room technician is a certified nursing assistant and certified medication technician who is trained in first aid and CPR. The health room technician works under my direction and supervision. There are times when I may delegate nursing functions to the health room technician to meet the medical needs of students.

If your child requires a medication or medical treatment during the school day, his/her health care provider must complete the appropriate forms. These forms may be obtained from the health room and at www.fcps.org or <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx?nid=2461>. As the registered nurse, I am responsible for assuring that medications and treatments can be administered safely during the school day.

Please contact me at 240-236-66423 @ THS or 240-566-0009 @TUES if you have any questions or concerns about the health care of your child. I look forward to meeting you and wish you and your child a healthy and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Amber Lange
Registered Nurse



Amber Lange , RN
Registered Nurse, School Health Program

Would You Like to be a Volunteer?

Thank you so much for your time and dedication to Tuscarora High School!!
If you are considering becoming a volunteer, please sign up for one of our two upcoming Volunteer trainings here at THS.

The afterschool volunteer training will be held Wednesday September 25th at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on September 24th so that there is adequate space and seating available. The during school hours volunteer training will be held Thursday October 10th from 9:30-10:30 am. Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on October 9th so that there is adequate space and seating available.

You can RSVP by either email elizabeth.forbes@fcps.org or by phone 240-236-6519.

You can also check out the Family & Community Involvement section on the THS school website to review the training and complete the required documents to volunteer as well. Thank you for all that you do for our school and for the community.

THS Humanities Hot Spot

A Communication Hub for all Tuscarora Students

We've got your back if you need "Humanities" help!

Friendly and helpful THS History and English teachers are available after school to coach you through:

Improving your **study skills** and **organization**.

Increasing your ability to process what you **read** successfully in English, history and other subjects.

Collecting tips and tricks to make your **writing** "pop" in essays, poems, research papers and more.

Building a **successful test-taking** game plan for SATs, HSAs, and other important tests.

Perfecting your **speech** and **presentation** skills.

Gathering resources for your post-high school **college** and **career planning**.

See Mr. Blanchard (B270), Mr. Chuhran (B271), Ms. Denton (B200), or Mrs. Carr (B209) for more information or to sign-up!

Room B209

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 until 4 p.m.

Snacks and limited bus service provided!

READ IT AND REAP

from Shawn Carr, the Titan Literacy Specialist

New reading assessment provides more data

All students taking 9th and 10th grade English this semester will participate in a new assessment, the Global Scholar reading assessment/pretest. Elementary and middle school students have been taking this test since last year. This computer-based test, which is aligned to our new Common Core standards, challenges students with long reading passages, advanced vocabulary and complex questions. As students get questions correct, the level of difficulty increases. When students get questions wrong, the level of difficulty decreases.

This assessment takes the place of the Scholastic Reading Inventory, which provided limited data and did not mimic the rigorous, authentic reading tasks students face daily in class. It also failed to provide teachers with much data, besides lexile scores. Students take the Global Scholar assessment at the beginning of the course to establish a starting point, and then at the end of the course. Testing results provide teachers and students with valuable information, including a list of the reading and writing skills students have or have not mastered. Using this data will enable teachers to deliver more targeted instruction in the classroom. Because this is a diagnostic assessment, we will use these scores to help measure student growth. Instead of focusing on a single score, we are looking at the progress students make, along with other pieces of data, such as grades, state testing results, etc.

If you have additional questions about your child's progress or the Global Scholar reading assessment, please contact me at shawn.carr@fcps.org or 240-236-6615.

THS Fall SAT Mini-Courses!

Free, SAT review sessions will be held at THS in October and November to prepare students for the December SAT test. Math review sessions will be led by Ms. McGuinness on Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in room B134.



Oct. 31 Nov. 21 Nov. 7
Nov. 14 Dec. 5

Reading and Writing review sessions will be led by Ms. Carr at 9 a.m. on the following Saturdays in room B209.

Nov. 9 (9 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

Nov. 16 (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

Nov. 23 (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

Students can sign up for one or all sessions. Free transportation home is provided on Thursdays for students who normally ride a bus to school. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside of guidance and the media center. If you would like more information about the reading and writing sessions, please contact Shawn Lees-Carr at 240-236-6615. If you would like more information about the math sessions, please contact Ellen McGuinness at 240-236-6447.



Model United Nations Club

All Tuscarora High students interested in world events and promoting better international understanding through dialogue are invited to join an upcoming Model United Nations simulation. Students from Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery and Washington County public and private high schools usually participate. This will be Tuscarora's eighth year of participation.

Frederick County Public Schools, Hood College, the Frederick UNESCO Center for Peace and the Maryland chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA are sponsoring this Model UN. Guided by rules of the UN, participating students will serve as ambassadors, choosing to represent the strategic interests of one of over 190 member UN countries.

Student ambassadors address real problems facing the world and develop comprehensive approaches to solve them. The student representative brings a student viewpoint to bear in debate. Each student will participate in the conference in such a way that closely represents the perspective of their nation on the topics/issues, assist in preparing resolutions, as well as act as the ambassador of their nation to the United Nations.

Event organizers from Frederick County Public Schools, Hood College and the UNESCO Center for Peace will choose two outstanding student delegates and invite them to attend an event at the UN in New York. Students writing the two best position papers will also receive award recognition.

There are two main events associated with this club:

First: On Saturday, 28 September students will meet at the FCPS Central Office in Frederick for an orientation, and for an overview of this year's topic. This will be a half day meeting ending at around 12-Noon.

(September, October and early November will be spent in research and writing- position papers will be due on Friday, 8 November. No student will be allowed to attend the final meeting without a submitted paper.)

Second: On Saturday, 7 December students will meet at Rosenstock Auditorium, Hood College for the General Assembly Meeting. This will be an all-day meeting ending at 4:30-5pm

Interested students should contact Mr. Ramienski in room B218.

Mark your calendars

September

2	Labor Day	Schools Closed
5	Rosh Hashanah	Schools Closed
18	Underclass Pictures	
19	Midterm	
21	Homecoming Dance	
20	Fair Day	Schools Closed
23	2 Hour Early Dismissal	
30	High School Assessments	

October

1-4	High School Assessments	
16	PSAT administered to all 10th graders and registered 11th graders	
18	State/Regional Educational Training	Schools Closed
25	Teacher Work Day	Schools Closed for Students

Tobacco-Free School Environment

The Frederick County Board of Education honors a tobacco-free school environment policy. The sale or use of tobacco products in any form by adults and students is prohibited on school grounds at all times. School grounds are defined as local school system owned or leased property that surrounds a school building as well as school busses. Minors in possession of tobacco products face a citation in addition to formal school disciplinary actions.

BOE Policy 112.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, September 26, 2013

7 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Auxiliary Gym

Sponsored by Tuscarora High School Key Club

Contact Beth Mummert

240-236-6603

lizabeth.mummert@fcps.org



National Honor Society

National Honor Society (NHS) is more than just an honor roll. Each Honor Society chapter establishes rules for membership that are based upon a student's outstanding performance in the areas of: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. These criteria for selection form the foundation upon which the organization and its activities are built.

The THS Chapter of the NHS will invite all juniors and seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher to apply for membership this fall. Letters will be mailed home inviting prospective members and their parents to attend an informational meeting early in the school year to hear a more detailed explanation of the application process as well as expectations of membership.

Each year for-profit organizations use "look alike" logos in their materials inviting families to send in money to secure a place for their student in what appears to be NHS. Please be aware all formal invites to NHS will arrive on the traditional school stationary with contact information for THS. Please feel free to contact NHS advisors at THS for more information.

THS Academic Team

Do you have a knack for trivia?

Are you interested in categories such as current events, science, literature, music, math, history, and sports?

Do you want to show off your knowledge and go Head-to-Head against other high schools in our county?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, come join Tuscarora High's Academic Team!

See Mr. Ramienski in Room B218 for more details.

Student in the News

Class Officers

Senior Class

President:

Tabitha Giacalone

Vice President:

Sam Williamson

Secretary:

April Shanz

Treasurer:

Jordan Kadan

Historian:

Sophie Aguirre

Junior Class

President:

Brittany McClary

Vice President:

Briah Gray

Secretary:

Macketta Johns

Treasurer:

Kiersten Watts

Historian:

Kaylyn Flanagan

Sophomore Class

President:

Katrina Delos Reyes

Vice President:

Adrianna Hill

Secretary:

Isabella Mendiola

Treasurer:

Kate McGeehan

Historian:

Athena Panton

Important Information from Food Services

Assisted Meal Program

Each student will receive a form to complete for the assisted meals program. Please return the form to school as soon as possible do not wait. If you are unsure as to whether you qualify or not, send the form in for review. If your economic status changes during the year, you can submit another form. All information is confidential; students cannot see another student's meal status.

At the beginning of the year it will take up to 14 business days to get meal assistance approved so be sure to send money with your student in the meantime. Meals cannot be charged at the high school.

All assisted meals include breakfast and lunch.

Student Accounts

Each student has an account. You can put money on that account via email (www.cafeprepay.com) or you can send in a check or cash. Money on account enables the student to purchase anything we have available. If you wish, you can buy prepaid meals which allows the student to purchase meals only and no ala carte items (snacks). If you chose this option, please write "meals only" in the memo section of your check.

By keeping money on account the student doesn't lose the money, doesn't spend it on his way to school or feel pressured to loan money to another student.

Allergie

If your student has an allergy you must fill in a form with a healthcare provider's signature informing us of what the allergy is, what needs to be removed from the student's diet and what to replace it with. We cannot make meal modifications without this form.

Menus

Meal menus can be accessed at www.fcps.org or by request from the kitchen.

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		
MEAL PRICES 2013-2014		
	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>LUNCH</u>
Elementary	\$1.10	\$2.05
Secondary	\$1.35	\$2.30
	REDUCED PAID BREAKFAST	\$.30
	REDUCED PAID LUNCH	\$.40
	MILK	\$.50

ATTENDANCE



YOU'VE GOT TO BE HERE!

THS Attendance Policies and Reminders

I Believe...that all Titans will come to school every day. But if you cannot, the following are excused absences:

Death in the immediate family
Student illness
Court Summons
Hazardous weather conditions
Work or activity accepted by school
Observance of a religious holiday
State emergency
Health exclusion
Suspension
Lack of authorized transportation (does not include missing the bus)
Other emergency

How do you have an absence marked as excused?

Students should bring a note to school for each absence. Phone calls to attendance must be followed up in writing. Notes should be received by the attendance office within two days of the absence.

What about sports and other school activities?

Students arriving after 9 a.m. or leaving before 12:50 p.m. are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.

How do I check out of school or check in to school?

Students **arriving late** should sign in at the attendance desk in the front office to receive a pass to class.

Students who need to **leave early** should turn in their note from home at the attendance desk in the front office at the beginning of the school day. Students will be given a pass for their dismissal time. Students should sign out in the front office when they leave.

Students should not call parents for permission to leave early during the school day. The nurse or health technician will contact home if a student is ill. The student's administrator may contact parents on other occasions.

What if I miss more than five (5) days of school?

Students who miss more than five unexcused days of school during a term will fail the term due to attendance.

What if I miss more than ten (10) days of school?

Students who miss more than ten unexcused days of school during the semester will fail the semester due to attendance.

Students who miss more than ten (10) days of school during the school year will be added to the required doctor's note list. Absences will no longer be excused by parent notes. Only official doctor's notes or notes such as a court summons will excuse an absence.

Chronic attendance problems?

Administrators, school counselors and school support are here to help. Please do not hesitate to call for assistance: 240-236-6400.

Exchange Students from Denmark Return!

In partnership with Middletown High School, Tuscarora High School will host 11 students and a teacher from

Allsundgymnasiet Sønderborg, Denmark. The group plans to arrive Friday evening, October 4, 2011 and depart Wednesday morning October 9th.

During their stay, the students will attend classes with their host student and give presentations about life in Denmark. If you are interested in hosting one of our guests, please contact Jennifer.creter@fcps.org.



THS Newsletter to be Delivered Electronically Find Out First: Do You Subscribe?

Subscribe to *Find Out First* at www.fcps.org/fof/thc.



In an effort to conserve resources and promote timely communication, the THS newsletter will be delivered electronically to all *Find Out First* subscribers this school year. *FOF* subscribers will receive a notice alerting them to logon to the THS website to view or download our newsletter each time it is published this year. Please take a few minutes to subscribe (or update) your account.

Find Out First is a convenient way to stay up to date on the latest school news. Additionally, FCPS offers lots of school news via *Find Out First* email: emergency notices, calendar updates, cafeteria menus, testing info and much more! Add your email address (up to 2), and choose the news you want. You can change your options or unsubscribe at any time.

**** If you subscribed last school year, please make sure to update your grade level(s) and/or school(s) of interest.**