

The page features several dark blue geometric shapes: a parallelogram in the top left, a parallelogram in the top right, a triangle on the left side, a triangle on the right side, and a triangle at the bottom center.

the State *of* *the* School

HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL

February 2, 2016



INTRODUCTION

Dear Howard High School Community,

As we close out the first semester and look ahead to the second half of the school year, it is the perfect time to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and consider what adventures still lay ahead.

When I became Howard's 7th principal on July 1st, I indicated that I wanted to build on the traditions of success that the Lions have known since opening in 1952 while also taking the school to new heights.

The success of our school is grounded in the "3 A's of Our Report Card" – academics, athletics, and activities. This state of the school report presents highlights of the accomplishments of our students and staff in these areas while also showcasing some upcoming events.

I hope you enjoy reading the "State of the School" and appreciate your support of Howard High School!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Novak". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "N" and a cursive "Novak".

Nick Novak

Principal

ACADEMICS

Career Technology Education



- * This past fall, JROTC students participated in the Leadership Weekend at Fort AP Hill in Virginia. The program had its largest turnout for this event in 15 years.
- * The computer science teachers have been implementing the new Designing Technology Solutions curriculum giving students experience creating computer code and programming experience.
- * Several students from the business academy attended the Future Women in Business Conference at the University of Maryland College Park.
- * Seniors in the engineering academy are continually working with mentors and presenting their senior projects to an advisory team.
- * The FBLA and Culinary Teams have been continually preparing for regional and state competitions in the spring.
- * The CTE department spearheaded our “Hour of Code” activities as part of our partnership with code.org.

ACADEMICS

English

- * AP 12 English teachers attended professional development offered by the College Board in Philadelphia and are incorporating the critical reading and writing strategies in their lessons.
- * Started a new initiative with vertical teaming . Teachers are focusing on improving synthesis skills, argument writing, and literary analysis from grade 9 to 12.
- * 9th grade teachers have worked with the feeder middle schools on smoothing the articulation process and making sure 8th grade teachers are familiar with the rigor of high school English.
- * The 10th grade team created PARCC-style materials that were shared with other 10th grade teachers in the county.
- * In general, more attention has been made to create engaging, student-centered activities (including student choice). Teachers have added physical movement, competitions, art, and video-making. Guest speakers (such as Vietnam War veterans and published novelists) have brought a "voice" to existing curricula.



ACADEMICS

Fine Arts & Physical Education

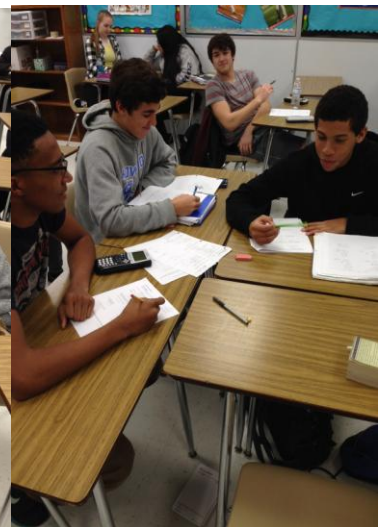
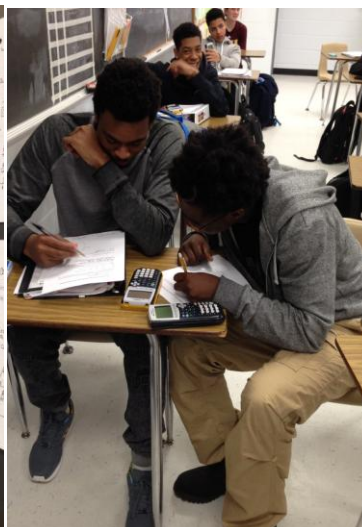


- * The Visual Arts Department organized and installed the 2nd Annual Juried Art Exhibition in the M.A.N.E. Space Gallery, which opened on January 8th. See some of the artwork on their Twitter feed (@HowardHighArt) that was started this year.
- * Twenty one talented musicians were named to All-State, All-County, and Honors music ensembles in choir, band, and orchestra. They are currently working on their repertoires with students from across the State.
- * Lifetime Fitness and Health teachers are collaborating with upper level course teachers to identify students that show potential for growth in their departments for next year.
- * The Senior and Junior Dance Company represented Howard in the show, "Howard Dance Festival," over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend.
- * Theater arts students have honed their craft by performing excerpts from popular plays (and some students successfully auditioned for mainstage productions).

ACADEMICS

Mathematics

- * At the beginning of December the Math National Honor Society inducted thirty-three new members raising the total enrollment to eighty members. These members participate in a number of activities including our popular tutoring program.
- * Our Math Team has competed well this year tying for first place at one event. Currently, the team is in second place. Twelve members compete on the team and practice every week.
- * There has been a huge emphasis this year in the three common core areas (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry) to collaboratively plan and develop engaging lessons and tasks.
- * Many teachers have taken advantage of the BYOD program to have students use their smart phones as quizzing devices for programs like Kahoot that allows students to compete against one another in an online quiz.
- * Exposing students to Calculus in high school remains a big goal at Howard and allowing students to double up in Math Analysis and Trigonometry has helped accelerate students or get them caught back up.



ACADEMICS

Ninth Grade Team



- * Before school started, the 9th grade team once again hosted rising freshman at the 9th grade overnight. Approximately two hundred members of the class of 2019 went to Summit Lake in Emmitsburg, MD to get acquainted with the expectations for high school and each other.
- * On PSAT Day, the 9th grade team led students in a variety of activities including a field day and a motivational movie. The students had a great time and it helped with team building for students who couldn't attend the overnight.
- * 9th Grade Teachers collaborated after school with our three feeder middle schools to discuss the preparedness and skill set of incoming 9th graders
- * The 9th Grade Team is analyzing student data to identify individual root causes and solutions for our struggling students
- * 9th Grade students are participating in the "No Zero Hero" initiative, where students are rewarded for turning in all of their assignments

ACADEMICS

Science

- * Students in some of the biology classes are participating in the Watershed program in partnership with the Howard County conservancy. Environmentalists came to Howard and worked with students to assess the impact of water run-off on the chemical composition of the soil and the degree of erosion around the campus.
- * Students in environmental classes/club coordinated the planting of new trees in partnership with Howard County's office of sustainability. Many students across a variety of curricular areas participated in the day of planting.
- * Teachers have been extremely creative in their lessons including having physics students find the water fountain in the school with the "fastest" water, creating wearable molecular model "jewelry," and studying chemical/physical changes using Mentos and Diet Coke.
- * The forensic science classes recently collaborated with students in the law and the citizen class on a murder trial with lots of evidence to analyze.



- * Independent Research and Intern/Mentor students have been interviewing professionals in their related fields or topics of interest. They contacted the professionals, scheduled the interviews, conducted/recorded the interviews, and are in the process of transcribing the interviews.
- * AP Psych students had to interview their parents as part of the Development unit. The kids were given a general framework of questions about frustrations/rewards of parenting as well as what their parents thought were keys to good parenting. Lots of really positive feedback from parents as well as some great discussion in class afterward.
- * Students in American Government selected their choice for president. They then took a survey of various political viewpoints and came up with who they would support. It was interesting to see that some of them had a match!
- * Several teachers are trying out Nearpod, an app that allows students to access interactive class presentations on their smart phones.

ACADEMICS

Special Education

- * The special education department has established a strong collaboration with parents and general education teachers to support student progress. A total of ten co-teachers plan with their content teachers on a daily basis.
- * Two special education teachers teach tutorial classes for approximately 85 students throughout the day. Students are receiving support in their classes and learning general strategies for student success.
- *Special educators have built a strong collaboration with community organizations such as Project Search, Community Connections at HCC, Project Access at HCC that help support student's post high school transition.
- * A huge number of students participated in Allied Soccer and that's in large part due to the outstanding support of the biggest Best Buddies chapter in the county. Students plan fun events for their buddies.
- *Special educators offer after school content assistance, for example, on Wednesdays with Biology help.



ACADEMICS

World Languages and ESOL



- * Latin students used authentic coins to learn about the Roman kings and heroes; made a coin to represent a specific hero made sigillaria (little dolls) out of clothespins for their Secret Saturnalia.
- * ESOL 2 students wrote an author letters on the topic: "How did an author's work change you or your world view?" and entered these letters in the Library of Congress "Letters About Literature" contest.
- * Spanish 2 students figured out new grammar concepts (from texts and writing provided, and then teach the class, like a flipped classroom, where they were engaged and gained confidence in their language skills. Spanish 3 students create a movie poster combining two different movie trailers, story lines and characters in the target language.
- * German students attended German-American Day at McDaniel earlier in the year, but also constructed gingerbread houses in teams

ATHLETICS

Boys Cross Country

* Boys Cross Country had one of the better seasons in school history finishing 4th at the State Championships, 2nd at Regionals and 2nd in the County. The varsity team average (Runners 1-7) was 16:49 for a 5k. They were lead by sophomore Nick Deamer who led the team in all the meets and finished 8th individually at the state meet. Senior captains were Brian Goulet, Joey Lapointe, and Rupam Mondal.



Girls Cross Country

* Led by Senior Captains Taylor Jaranyi, Maura Mead, and Courtney O'Neill., the Girls Cross Country Team had another solid performance in the Fall 2015 season. The team won all of their tri-meets, defeating Hammond, Marriott's Ridge, Wilde Lake, Long Reach, River Hill, and Atholton. The girls attended 3 invitationals, placing 2nds at the Seahawk Invitational, 8th in the Elite Division at the Bull Run Invitational, and 10th at the Glory Days Invitational. When the Championship season came around, the girls continued with their success by placing 2nd and the County Championships, 2nd at the 4A North Regional Championships, and 10th at the State Championships.

ATHLETICS

Field Hockey

* Lady Lions Field Hockey finished with an overall record of 9-6, making it all the way to the Regional Final. Highlights included overtime wins to both Mt. de Sales and Old Mill. Our captains were senior Katie Martin, who earned the Coaches Award and junior Annette Jarosz, who was the Offensive Player of the Year. Other awards included Marissa Penn as the Defensive Player of the Year, Maddie Land as the Most Improved Player and Zoe Summa as the Most Valuable Player



Football

The 2015 season saw many accomplishments on the Varsity football team.

- Record 13-1
- regional champs (repeat)
- county champs (repeat)
- 1st trip to state championship in 40 years
- 25 of our 52 players made the academic honor roll
- 8 all county 1st team
- 5 all county 2nd team

ATHLETICS

Boys Soccer

We had a slow start to the season, but we never gave up and worked hard in every game and in every practice. By the last few weeks of the regular season we really clicked as a team. We won 6 of our last 9 games including making it to the regional championship game where we lost to eventual state champions Perry Hall in double overtime.



Girls Soccer

The Girls Varsity Soccer team had a phenomenal season this year finishing second in the County. Our overall record was 11-4, 10-3 in season, and 9-2 in county. After losing our first 2 games, we went on a 10 game winning streak, outscoring our opponents 34 to 6, with 5 shutouts in that run. Six of our girls made it to All-County and 1 made it to All-State. Overall, it was an amazing season that unfortunately ended a little too soon.

ATHLETICS

Volleyball

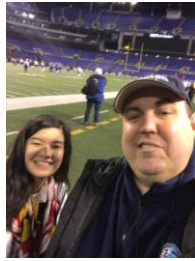
* The varsity volleyball team had another excellent 2015 season finishing with an overall record of 15 and 4 and advancing to the regional championship match. The team finished in 2nd place in the county with an 11 and 2 regular season record. We had 3 players named to all county teams (Sarah Sweet and Julia McKenna to the first team and Christina Kundrat to the second team). Julia McKenna broke the Howard High season record with 647 setter assists, Valerie Greisman set a record with a 2.20 serve receive average, and as a team we set records for assists per game (711) and kills per game (756) for a season.



Cheerleading

* The cheerleading squad played a prominent role in the football team's State Championship run this year. Week after week, these young men and women helped create a spirited environment for our students, staff, parents, and the general Howard community. While not out at the track on a cold and windy Friday night, the team was competing at invitationals and county tournaments. Solid performance all around.

ACTIVITIES



* Shortly after the start of the school year, we celebrated Homecoming and it was nothing short of spectacular. Seniors won the hallway contest and the weekend was packed with great events like the pep rally, parade, a club fair, the football game, and, of course, the dance. More than 800 tickets were sold – WOW! What a fun time!

* Throughout the Fall, we've had lots of displays of school spirit thanks to the SGA Spirit Committee and our Howard Superfan App. Both of these initiatives have been instrumental in raising school spirit and #HowardPride!

* It's Academic won its first TV match-up, which airs Saturday 2/6 on WJZ.

* The Fall play, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", was a huge success. With a different ending every performance, the audience was always in for an unexpected treat.

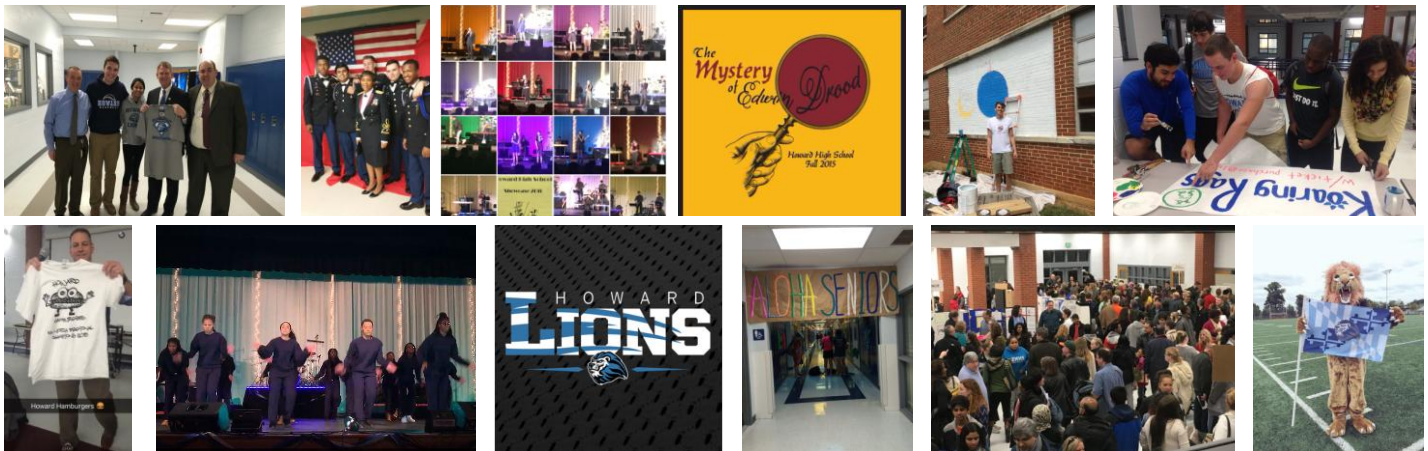
* Love My Life (LML) completed the senior courtyard clean-up and a student refinished the picnic tables to really make the space a place our seniors can take pride in.

* Lots of fundraisers going on – fifty five so far this year! Fantastic!



ACTIVITIES

- * The 2nd annual World Language Fest in October was a huge success. The food, performances, and info booths made it an event not to miss. If you did miss out, there's always next year!
- * Students in the American Sign Language class/club have performed at concerts (signing the lyrics) and participated in homecoming activities too.
- * Both the Math Honor Society and Science Honor Society joined the National Honor Society in after school tutoring efforts. Students have multiple opportunities to get help in their classes.



- * To complement our Delta Scholars and Alpha Achievers, we established a Black Student Union this year. The club is just getting started, but the interest level and enthusiasm is high and lots of great things are being planned. Speaking of our Deltas and Alphas, our young ladies had inductions before Winter Break and our young men attended the annual MLK breakfast with Alphas from across the county.
- * The annual Showcase "talent show" was phenomenal. Over three nights, some of Howard's best singers, dancers, and musicians took the stage to share their skills with an audience of students, staff, and parents.

LOOKING AHEAD

February

* Winter sports continue throughout the month and playoffs begin soon. Be sure to come see allied bowling, boys basketball, girls basketball, indoor track, and wrestling in action.

* HoHS Theater Arts proudly presents "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" on February 17th, 18th, & 19th and "Steel Magnolias" on February 20th & 21st.

March

* Spring sports begin March 1st.

* Orchestra Prevue concert is Thursday March 10th.

* The Improv Team, "Hello, My Name Is," performs Friday March 18th.

* College Night for Juniors is Tuesday March 22nd at 6pm.

April

* Students will compete in the Mr. Howard High School competition on Thursday April 7th.

* AP Art students display their work in the Mane Space. The show begins at 5pm on Thursday April 14th.

* The Spring Instrumental Concert will be on Tuesday April 19th and Wednesday April 20th and the Dance Concert will be on Thursday April 28th and Friday April 29th.

May/June

* The Choral Concert is Friday May 6th.

* The Guitar Concert is Tuesday May 10th.

* Prom is Friday May 20th; no word yet on graduation/senior event dates.

* As of now, the last day of school for students would be Thursday June 16th.