



Fall has Arrived!

What a beautiful fall we are having! This has got to be my favorite time of the year; not too hot, not too cold...just perfect. A hearty hello and welcome to all our Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service families! Whether this is your first year with us or you are a returning MDTS veteran, we are so pleased to have you in one of our various programs.

Over the summer we thought we were busy—a large summer program to run, events to plan, and family division tutoring at libraries throughout the county...sounds busy, right? Well! This fall Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service is busier than ever! From the SES side of MDTS to the Family Division, Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service has

been hustling and bustling all over Prince George's County to provide students with the best tutoring available!

And parents agree! Mrs. Dowd's really is the best deal around! Be sure to check out the "Fall Report Card" article on page 4. As you read through the newsletter you will notice that it has grown a bit. This is due to all the activities that MDTS have been planning and doing. Mrs. Dowd really keeps us busy! MDTS is growing and you guys are making it possible! Thank you to all the families who have been with us and spoke highly of the program to other parents. And thank you to all the new families who have trusted us with the academic care of their children.



I am confident that we will do everything in our power to help your children understand their reading, math, and so much more.

If there is ever any question about the content of this newsletter I would love to hear from you! Please don't ever hesitate to call me at the office. I'm all ears (like the office dog).

—Colleen Hooker

Mrs. Dowd's On the Web!

If you ever need up to date information concerning Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service, tutoring times and dates, or just want to explore all that MDTS offers, check out our web site: www.christianteacher.net!

Our webmaster, Mrs. Pegi Black, works hard to make sure that everything you need, whenever you need it, is right at your fingertips!



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Special points of interest:

- *What are your Kids up to at MDTS?*
- *Need one-on-one Tutoring?*
- *Local High Schoolers Strive towards Colleges and Careers*
- *Meet our Marketing Team Leader!*
- *Hear from Mrs. Dowd!*
- *Thanksgiving: Are you ready for Turkey?*

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Fall Into Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service!

Here we are, middle of October, and in full swing of our Autumn Achievers' Module. Yes, MDTS is back with a vengeance! This fall we implemented many new and exciting ideas that all aid in our goal of furthering your child's education as well as helping them prepare for the MSA's. We have new reading and math manipulatives, which are a favorite at every school, designed to help children learn hands-on. Games such as Connect Four, and Uno remain the classic recess games that every child (and some parents!) love.

Our reading and math curriculum is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education and is taught by

MDTS trained teachers. Our curriculum helps supplement the curriculum taught in the classroom. Every child that comes into an MDTS session will have a math session that incorporates daily computation activities, MSA questions, and all math strands found in the Voluntary State Curriculum. Following the math session is a reading session of equal time. For that hour student's work on vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing techniques, as well as reading from different writing genres such as: poetry, essays, letters, fiction and non-fiction.

All-in-all, your child is receiving a quality education provided by both Prince George's County Public Schools and



Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service. We have seen that the more a child participates in the MDTS program, the better prepared they will be for the classroom and for the MSA's. With that being said, we

encourage you to keep your child coming so that they can benefit from all that MDTS has to offer.

How Did You Hear about MDTS?

So to start with, my name is Steve Patterson, Salutations! Or in the much less professional greeting I have become more accustomed to, "what's up?" If you were to respond, "just chillin" than you would be ready to do what I do: Marketing. You see my job as the Marketing Team Leader is to meet your kids in their schools. When I get the chance to speak to your kids, who are already in school 8 hours a day, I have to find a way to get them excited to come for more! Now don't get me



wrong, once these guys/gals show up to Mrs. Dowd's they can't wait to come back, the tricky part is getting them to

come the first time. So if your kids came home from school one day all excited about wanting to be tutored you may be wondering...

..."So how did you do it?"

Well, thanks for asking, it's easy, I let the product speak for itself! Mrs. Dowd's "children first" mentality is why the kids come. For instance, I love asking the kids what *they* want, "Games! Food! Teachers who relate!" are the resounding responses, which is why if you walk into any of our centers you'll find just that; games, food, and teachers who are really good at helping your child understand their math and reading.

Family Division

The parents have called and Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service Family Division has answered! Not only does MDTS provide high quality after-school SES tutoring, but what we specialize in is matching qualified tutors with local student's that need help! Whether it be a second grader struggling with subtraction (I've been there!) or a high school junior preparing for the SAT's (been there too!), Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service will be more than happy to set up a time, however long you are willing

to work with us, so that we can partner together in helping your child overcome his or her struggles.

Every parent wants their child to succeed in school, but there are limits on your time and limits to what the classroom teacher can do. We are here to be of help. As peaceful advocates, we work with you, your child, the school, school counselors, faculty, in short, everyone involved in your son or daughter's school life. Why? We only have a short



time with our children, and then we are preparing them for college. Why not

make these the best years for them, both academically, and emotionally. Good grades give children a great sense of accomplishment. Call us today at 301-345-3693!

Local High School Students Excel

Imagine being a young high school student, 15 maybe 16, with an overwhelming desire to go to college, start your own business, or work for a company where you can achieve your employment goals. For many students life takes its toll early and does not allow for them to focus their energy and attention on school. But for local Bladensburg High School students, there exists a program to help them stay focused on the straight and narrow—*Pathways to Career Success*.

Reverend Gail Addison, Founder and President of End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM), Inc. believes that the key to safer neighborhoods and communities lies in how we treat our youth; thus, incorporating her vision, *Healing Communities by Healing Our Youth*. ETHM has played a key role in the Port Towns area by developing youth education and awareness programs that exist to serve the youth by encouraging and building them up.

Under the Leadership of Rev. Addison, ETHM, Inc. has started numerous programs involving community and youth that educate and prepare them for life, career, and family. The “Pathways to Career Success” is one such program. ETHM’s Pathways to Career Success Program is a competency-based, in-school and community-concentrated career development model that will systematically prepare students to meet present and future workforce needs in [Prince George’s County, Maryland \(PGC\)](#).

Rev. Addison recognizes that education and proper training brings success, which is why the “Pathways to Career Success” model has incorporated a tutoring program as part of its requirements.



Mrs. Dowd’s Teaching Service has been a longtime supporter of ETHM, Inc. and is proud to partner

with ETHM in its endeavors. MDTS, through the “Pathways to Career Success” program, tutors Bladensburg High School students in math and English, all before their classes even begin! These students are excited and determined to succeed, and MDTS is excited about being part in their success.

Ninety two (92) Bladensburg High students are involved in this career development initiatives through their participations in many of ETHM’s initiatives: Jobs-For-Youth Program, Job Skills Workshop readiness training, Entrepreneurship Program, Tutoring program, internships, and community outreach projects. Students as young as 14 are identifying their career paths and beginning their development, thanks to the efforts of End Time Harvest Ministries, Inc.

If you are interested in ETHM, Inc. and their youth development and empowerment programs throughout Prince George’s County, please refer to their website, <http://www.ethm.org/ethm.htm>.

Fall Module Keeping MDTS Busy

Mrs. Dowd’s Teaching Service loves Prince George’s County Public Schools! We have had the pleasure of working with some of the finest schools in the area. Some of these schools even made AYP last year! Over the years we have grown quite attached to schools such as Bladensburg E.S., Robert R. Gray E.S., Riverdale E.S., and Buck Lodge M.S. Of course our goal is

Quality after school programs provide safe, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.

—Debbie Stabenow

to see these schools through to successful MSA scores and to making AYP.

We are proud to announce that we have officially partnered with Lewisdale E.S., Cool Spring E.S., and Gladys Noon Spellman E.S., to provide supplemental educational services. Welcome to the family all students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff at these schools! We are proud to stand with you as you strive for academic

Director’s Corner

Are you wondering why there is a picture of speed skaters next to my column? Okay, here’s the BIG secret: Back in the day, when I was a teenager, I skated competitively. Oh, yes! The moment the *first snowflake* landed



in Cleveland, Ohio, I got my skates out and headed for Halloran Ice Skating

Rink to fun and hours of skating! I started skating when I was 10 years old and never looked back. Most of the girls loved figure skating and cute little pom poms on their skates, but not me! I loved the thrill and speed of speed skating. The blades on the bottom of speed skates are very, very long and extremely sharp. So our coaches had us learn to stop the minute we put on our first pair of skates. One day, thanks to good teaching, I stopped a fraction of a second before a small toddler that had fallen in front of a group of us skating in formation.

Which brings up another point: parents, how many of you participated in sports, music, theatre, etc., and never told your kids? So much happens when a baby is born, and add to that many other babies and time (literally) flies and our own stories are lost. So here is the challenge this season: take an hour, and find the time to tell *you own children a story from your childhood*. Trust me, it will make such a difference to the way they see you!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, (maybe it will snow)

—Eileen Dowd
Executive Director

Fall Report Card

Here's a quick update of what we are doing in each of the schools that we are working in:

Bladensburg Elementary School

One of our schools that made AYP! With over 200 kids attending our after-school program, Bladensburg Managers Terri Brown, Olga Mata, Karen Dickson, and Eileen Dowd have quite a task on their hands! Grades K-2 meet twice a week and grades 3-6 meet for our Saturday Morning Adventure Club. We've seen many familiar faces but also many new ones! It's been a whole lot of fun getting to know so many kids and we look forward to many more days of learning, laughter, and fun!

Robert R. Gray Elementary School

Another one of our schools that made AYP! Robert R. Gray has had a good size turn-out as well. This module we are primarily working with grades K-2, and we've been having a lot of fun! Students are learning all about addition, subtraction, short vowels and long vowels. Before you know it they will be reading perfectly! Manager Sharon



Break Out the Pumpkin Pie!

The cool, crisp autumn-time air is upon us, and just as we experienced the leaves changing from bright green to bold yellows, reds, and oranges, they will soon be falling from the trees only to line the streets we live on. Ahh, fall; God's masterpiece at hand.

One of the most spectacular things about fall, besides the changing colors of the leaves, is the experience of Thanksgiving. What a privilege it is to take one day off and to spend it reflecting on all that has been given to us.

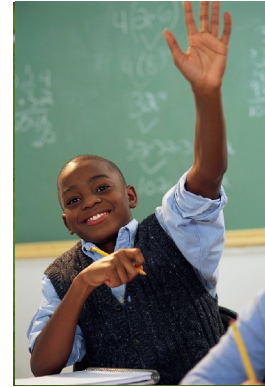
Ware is really doing an exceptional job with the kids. And don't worry, next module we will be working with grades 3-6 only: Sign up now!

Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary School

One of our brand new schools! Right down the street from Bladensburg E.S. is a great school that we have fallen in love with: Gladys Noon Spellman! Already we have had about 50 kids enter into our program and they are loving it! Manager Nadir Nance is a seasoned tutor but a new face to management. She is doing a wonderful job so when you see her, congratulate her! Be sure to ask your kids how their tutoring is going; I'm sure they would love to share with you.

Buck Lodge Middle School

Marketing team leader Steve Patterson has done an excellent job of rallying the Buck Lodge troops as well as getting them excited about Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service. Already we've had 60 kids sign up and are expecting more. Mr. Patterson talked to the students and heard what *they* wanted in a tutoring program and MDTS will do it's best to honor these requests. Expect the program to start mid-November.



Children are learning with MDTS!

Lewisdale Elementary School

One more new school to the MDTS class roster! Ever thought about celebrating Fridays and the weekend? Well, MDTS will be having a T.G.I. Friday session every Friday from 2-5 p.m. which is opening Friday,

November 3rd!

Cool Spring Elementary School

Another one of our brand new schools! MDTS is really, really excited about working with the students of Cool Spring E.S. We believe that this school has a whole lot of character and spunk and are excited about what the future brings. Expect the program to start on Monday, October 23rd!

Riverdale Elementary School

One of our veteran schools and one that made AYP last year! Mrs. Dowd met with Principal Cantu and it is official: Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service will begin in January! This is very exciting news because the students and families at Riverdale are very special to MDTS. We are anticipating an outstanding program so if you haven't signed up, be sure to!

together to celebrate.

At Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service we have much to be grateful for. Wonderful students, schools, teachers, and families allow us to consider ourselves very, very blessed. We would love for you to join us in celebrating Thanksgiving at each of our after-school sites on the **last day of tutoring before the Thanksgiving Break**. We will be having a small Thanksgiving Day inspired snack, playing games, and enjoying the company of each other courtesy of MDTS.

Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service

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We're on the web!
www.christianteacher.net

Until every child in PG County is served...



Seamus: Office Dog

Some offices might have a plant, or if they're lucky, a fish for an office companion. What I've come to realize is that neither plants nor fish make for great pets. Surprised? Not really. At the Mrs. Dowd's Teaching Service offices we wanted a real pet, so Mrs. Dowd brings her own little friend to the office: Seamus! He's not that good at answering phones, and he's definitely not the best with handling files but he's really good at letting us pet his tummy. But then again, what dog isn't?



Fun Dog Facts

- The dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans.
- Mosaics meaning "Beware the Dog" would be found on doorsteps in ancient Roman cities.
- The world's first dog show was held in Britain in 1859.
- People in ancient China stayed warm by carrying toy breeds in their sleeves.
- The smallest mature dog was a Yorkshire Terrier that was 2 1/2 inches high at its shoulder.
- The heaviest dog ever weighed 319 pounds.
- The oldest dog ever died at age 29.
- The tallest dog ever was a Great Dane who stood 41 inches high.
- The first living creature sent into space was a female dog named Laika launched by the former USSR on November 3, 1957 ([Whitehead et al. 1999](http://www.bio.davidson.edu/Courses/anphys/2000/Hatfield/Hatfield8.htm)).

Information found at:
<http://www.bio.davidson.edu/Courses/anphys/2000/Hatfield/Hatfield8.htm>