

SWA 8th Grade Tiger Quarterly Newsletter

February 2022

Message from Principal Franklin

As we enter the mid-year point, our focus remains on social emotional learning and quality instruction. Please enjoy this issue to highlight all we are doing to sustain our focus.

Academic Achievement

It is highly recommended that you and your child log into Schoology weekly to monitor your child's grades and assignment completion. Please feel free to email teachers with any questions you may have so we are truly fostering our shared partnership and commitment to your child's success.

Behavioral Achievement

The grade level team leaders and assistant principals will continue to reward the students who consistently followed our P.O.U.N.C.E. Code of Conduct. Our goal is to have 100% participation in these special events. We will continue to recognize and celebrate the students who are coming to school each and every day on time and for consistently displaying positive behavior; as well as provide consequences for students who are not making positive choices.

Health and Safety

Students' and staff's health and safety remain a top priority, please consistently ensure that you are not sending your children to school when they are sick and reiterating the importance of social distancing and mask wearing. Please contact the school if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

More Books!

We are grateful to the Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association (BCRSPA) for their generous \$1000 donation for purchasing library books! Research has shown that when you read every day, you:

1. Gain valuable knowledge
2. Exercise your brain
3. Improve your focus
4. Improve your memory
5. Enjoy entertainment
6. Improve your ability to empathize
7. Improve your communication skills
8. Reduce stress
9. Improve your mental health
10. Live longer

The library will be open soon! Don't miss out- grab your favorite book and get all the benefits of being an avid reader! Thank you, BCRSPA!

Stakeholder Climate Survey

It's almost time! The annual BCPS Stakeholder Climate Survey begins Monday, January 31, 2022, and will be available through Friday, March 4, 2022. Open to students in Grades 3-12, all parents and caregivers, staff, and community members, the survey will be available in multiple languages. Each year, this comprehensive survey provides valuable feedback and helps to steer decision-making about the budget, staff, and programs. It will be available on the BCPS website; be sure to participate and let us know your views.



Welcoming Mrs. Booze, 8th Grade Administrator



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I, Angela Booze. Write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Assistant Principal of Southwest Academy Middle Magnet.

I am beyond ecstatic to work with the staff, students, parents, and community members to continue building a community that is rooted in collaboration, education of culture, trust, and communication.

From July 2017 – July 2020 I was the Staff Development Teacher at SWA. It is with great humility and honor to serve SWA once again. I have over 23 years of educational experience including, special educator, mentor teacher, resource teacher, coach, and presenter. I come to you with 9 years' experience in Baltimore City Public School System and over 14 years' experience in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Ms. Ham: Dance Teacher



Nivia Ham is a Baltimore MD native and a product of Baltimore county schools. She graduated high school from George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology and received her B.S in Dance at Coppin State University. In 2012 she chartered an Honorary Dance Fraternity called Delta Chi Xi Honorary Dance fraternity Inc. at Coppin, and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc at the same time. She is excited to embark on her journey at SWA and loves to show her craft to other.

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.”

-Aristotle

Spotlight in Dr. Gade's Magnet 8th Grade classes

We are starting Design and Modeling (DM) in our 7th and 8th grade Magnet classes this semester. DM provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.

Upcoming Events & Dates

6th Grade Hallway Party	16 th February
7th Grade Hallway Party	17 th February
8th Grade Hallway Party	18 th February





CCBC Upward Bound

The CCBC Upward Bound program came to visit the AVID 8 classrooms at Southwest Academy. Upward Bound is a program that provides supports, including tutorial, field trips, and application assistance, to participants as they prepare to enter college. During their visit, the program director at CCBC engaged students in a game of Jeopardy! The topic was Costa's Levels of Thinking. Students competed to answer questions of higher-level thinking to earn points and prizes!

Black Boy Joy and Genius

The scholars in the Black Boy Joy and Genius mentoring program have prospered and matured through the second marking quarter. The mentees sharpened their literacy skills through a book study, reading the novel, *Miles Morales: Spider Man*. Eighth grader, Allen Simpson, shared that he was excited to read more of the book in his leisure time during the unexpected snow days! He found that he shares many similarities with the main character, Miles Morales. Mr. Griffin, one of the mentors, has described his experiences with the mentees as inspirational and joyous. Mr. Griffin adds that, "the boys are fun to be around, and you can tell the students are making great progress academically." The scholars have grown more confident through the practice of literature and the motivation of their mentors!



Spotlight from Ms. Madden's Class:

Ms. Madden give a big shout to all her classes for adapting and following the classroom expectations. They have worked hard to adjust to the "new normal" of social distancing while reducing the amount of side conversations in the classroom. The change in behavior has enabled them to be actively engaged in instruction.

Spotlight from Ms. Rouco's classes:

Ms. Rouco is very proud of her 7th and 8th graders for their hard work during the 2nd Unit: ¡Vivir bien! / Living well! They learned vocabulary related to eating habits and physical activities. We had fun doing yoga poses, playing Kahoot, and Gimkit Team Challenges in our lessons. Good job guys! / ¡Buen trabajo chicos!

