Parent/Guardian and Teacher Conferences will be on Monday, December 6 from 3:30 - 5:30. Conference forms will be sent home with report cards on November 22. Please contact grade level team leaders with questions or concerns.

Team Leader: Denise Jackson – djackson5@bcps.org

| Language Arts | Language Arts students have been learning about how characters change throughout the story with a focus on theme. They recently finished writing dialogue to show how individuals change as a result of various experiences and events. As students move into Unit 2, they will read a variety of informational texts and view some media resources on the topics of fears and phobias as well as dealing with disasters.

Gifted and Talented Language Arts students applied the archetypal approaches to literary criticism in their analyses of setting, plot, and characterization of a variety of myths and wrote original crossover narratives that included those elements. As students move into Unit 2, they will explore genres of literature and how authors use the genre to comment upon society. Individuals, groups, events, and ideas are introduced and developed through texts and the media. |
| Reading Research | Reading Research students have been learning the basics of writing a research paper and using MLA format to credit a source. Each student is writing a 5-paragraph essay about a strange legend or phenomenon of their choice. They are using evidence and reasoning to defend a claim they make about their legend. As students move into Unit 2, they will be reading and analyzing stories from other cultures. Students will then be researching a culture of their choice to create a presentation. |
| Reading Foundations | Sixth grade students have been working hard to learn the routines of their Reading Foundations class. They have started their first workshop in the |
Read 180 program. This workshop uses informational texts about people who have worked to improve the lives of children in need. Students have learned content-area vocabulary with a focus on prefixes. Students were able to choose an independent reading book of their choice and complete daily reading logs. They are required to complete 40 minutes on their Student Application program weekly. If students are not able to achieve this in class, then they must work on it outside of the classroom.

World History
Sixth grade History has been fun, exciting, and challenging so far, and we wouldn’t have it any other way! We started the school year learning some geography basics, since the students will need to be familiar with these as we work our way towards June. A few of the topics we learned about so far are the Paleolithic Era, Neolithic Revolution, Neolithic Era, push and pull factors, human migration out of Africa, and world settlement. These topics will provide a solid base for future study. As we begin Unit 2, we will start to examine the first of the river civilizations; Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and the Indus River Valley to name a few. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have a question pertaining to social studies.

Chinese
6th grade students have been doing a great job learning Chinese. Students have been practicing their speaking, listening and reading skills. Students have also been doing a fantastic job typing Chinese characters on their laptops. Please remind your students to bring a fully charged computer to class since we use it every day! Students will be taking their Unit 1 test the week of November 1st. Please have your child study their vocabulary and past assignments to prepare for their test.

Spanish
6th grade students have been enthusiastic about learning Spanish. Student participation has been excellent. Continue to remind your students to bring their laptops charged everyday. Students will be taking their Unit 1 test the week of November 1st. Students should be reviewing their vocabulary and any assignments. Continue to encourage students to participate in class.

Math
6th grade standard math students will be working through fractions and fraction operations. Make sure to review multiplication facts with your student. They will need these basic skills in order to be successful.

6th grade GT math students will be working on rational numbers, ratios, and fraction operations. Make sure to review multiplication facts with your student. They will need these basic skills in order to be successful.

Science
Sixth Grade Science students just finished their Ecology Unit where they investigated how they could support local wildlife species. Their research on red bats, monarch butterflies, and blue tailed skinks yielded some great action plans. Their second unit is “Matter and its Interactions.” This challenging unit requires learning a new set of vocabulary, model making of atoms, molecules, and compounds, and experiments to discover the difference between physical and chemical changes. We are having fun doing hands-on science!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>We continue to strive to provide a safe environment for our 6th grade students and thank you for sending them to us ready to learn and prepared for the school day. Masks that fit over their nose and mouth as well as following our Covid mitigation and contact tracing procedures will help to keep them safe. We appreciate your support and hope that you will continue to discuss positive behavior expectations with your child.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team Leader: Rizza Padilla – <a href="mailto:rpadilla@bcps.org">rpadilla@bcps.org</a></strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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| Language Arts | 7th Grade English Language Arts students are excited to see full-length novels back in the curriculum after last year. Classes have been working all quarter to tackle the question, "How do historical and fictional characters overcome challenges fearlessly?" We are focusing on the fictional character Mimi Yoshiko Oliver in our class novel *Full Cicada Moon* to answer this question. We are also building figurative language, inferential thinking, and critical reasoning skills by finding examples in our book. Students have already completed their Performance Based Assessment project by writing an award speech for the most fearless person we’ve read about this year. Other fearless leaders include Zach Hodskins, Bessie Coleman, Richard Etheridge, and of course, the main character from *Full Cicada Moon*, Mimi. Next quarter, we will focus on these unit questions:
- *How does the structure of a poem or drama contribute to its meaning?*
- *How do elements of poetry or drama interact to create theme?*

Students will explore poetry and drama to analyze a playwright’s choices and a poet’s choices with creating meaning in their work.

GT Students have been learning about the archetype of the unsung hero and the danger of a single story throughout unit 1. Some prominent unsung heroes to note are Claudette Colvin, Jerrie Cobb and the Mercury 13, Ralph Lazo, and Lena Richard. We have been exploring expository writing and have been practicing writing engaging hooks and thought-provoking conclusions. Students have worked on their reading skills based on critical thinking, inferences, author’s language, and the possibility of unsung heroes in their choice novel for this unit: *Farewell to Manzanar, Parallel Journeys, Outcasts United, and Hidden Figures*. We are using the Whole Novels Approach by engaging in Socratic Seminars and practicing their speaking and listening skills with their peers.

Next unit, we look forward to the Power of the Creative Voice as we explore poetry and drama, which includes work from the legendary William Shakespeare. |
| **Math** | Pre-Algebra  
7th grade mathematicians spent this quarter mastering the number system. We applied understanding of operations (add, subtract, multiply, divide) to rational numbers and solved real-life mathematical problems. Our next unit focuses on ratios and proportional relationships. We will be analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world problems.  
We will be answering questions such as:  
How do you find unit rate?  
How can we identify and represent proportional relationships?  
How can we use graphs to represent and analyze proportional relationships?  
How can we use percent to describe change?  
How can we use percent to solve problems?  
To stay up to date with our progress, ask often about what’s happening in math class.  
Algebra  
In Algebra I students will look at functions as tables, graphs, equations and real-world situations as we start to examine linear relationships. An important concept for students to understand is that solutions for a two-variable equation are all the points of the plotted line in the coordinate plane. It is still very important that students are able to complete integer operations, so that they can explore these concepts and notice patterns with accuracy. |
| **Science** | In science, students are well into their biology unit:  
‘Form Follows Function.” They will learn about plant and animal cells and their parts - and that the cell is the building block for tissues, organs, and organ systems in the human body. Students get a glimpse of some of over 200 specialized cells in our bodies that keep us alive every day, and insight into some of the smaller things that can make us sick or even cause a worldwide pandemic. |
| **World History** | Greetings from the Past! So far we are having a great time spanning the globe in World History 7.  
We started the year in Byzantium (now Istanbul) with the Byzantine Empire, then enjoyed learning about the birth and spread of Islam. A close examination of the gold and salt trade in Africa followed and now wrapping up 1st quarter at the other end of the Silk Road with the Song Dynasty. We also met exciting men like Constantine, Justinian, Ibn Battuta and Mansa Musa.  
In 2nd quarter, we will head to Europe for the Medieval Period. We will take a look at the daily lives of kings, knights, peasants, role of the church, and many more great topics. We will also meet Charlemagne and William the Conqueror. Our goal is to have a day where we use mega blocks and legos to build medieval castles.  
We hope the students are enjoying the Social Emotional Learning taking place after assessments. We ask that all students keep up with their assignments, turning them in on time and to the best of their ability. |
**Chinese**
Students are finishing up their Unit 1 in Chinese this week by completing their Unit test. Students have done an excellent job learning the basics of Chinese, including how to introduce themselves to others (Novice Chinese A), or describing their school, classes, and teachers (Novice Chinese B). Please ensure that your students are studying on their own, by using the Chinese Study Resource page I posted and keep updated on our Schoology course. As we progress through the year, it will be important for students to keep up with the vocabulary knowledge.

**Spanish**
Students in Spanish have been doing a great job listening, speaking, reading and writing. Whether your student is in their first year or second year of Spanish, we are all so pleased with the progress they have made. Every quarter, students will receive two major tests (MUPC and IPA). These tests ask students to demonstrate what they know rather than testing them on specific vocabulary. We want all students to do their best, so please encourage students to practice their new vocabulary at home, use DuoLingo, Quizlet and review past assignments.

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**8TH GRADE**

**Team Leader: Clair Brow – cbrown18@bcps.org**

**Language Arts**
In our first units for both ELA 8 and ELA 8 GT, students have been addressing the question: **what makes a good story?** Students examined narratives in many formats including short stories, poems, movies, TV shows and more and analyzed various ways that authors attempt to emotionally affect their audience. Both groups of students recently completed their Performance Based Assessment in which they read a story, analyzed the author’s use of suspense and/or humor, and retold the story in a different point of view from the original. We are pleased to say that our students are creative, imaginative, and willing to be weird (in a good way) to take the tried-and-true stories of our society and adapt them for modern audiences. Students have also been reading a class novel in order to develop ideas for characterization and theme.

**Reading**
Students are currently utilizing the Read 180 program and practicing skills like close reading, vocabulary, and fluency. Ms. Richards’ Read 180 class is currently learning about dystopias and reading and analyzing several different dystopian texts.
### Math

Math 8 students will be continuing the exciting unit on proportional relationships. Students will learn about various topics including slope as a rate of change, writing linear equations for a set of data, and identifying functions. The material in this unit is very important for building a strong foundation for future math classes. In Algebra I, students will look at functions as tables, graphs, equations, and real-world situations as we start to examine linear relationships. An important concept for students to understand is that solutions for a two-variable equation are all the points of the plotted line in the coordinate plane. It is still very important that students are able to complete integer operations, so that they can explore these concepts and notice patterns with accuracy.

In GT Geometry, students are applying their problem solving and reasoning skills to develop proofs. This is a great time for students to review the theorems and definitions they have learned this year. For our next unit, we will be transitioning into the new Illustrative Math curriculum which will be used for the remainder of the school year.

### Science

Throughout the first quarter students have been examining how the atmosphere and hydrosphere interact to create our weather and our climate. As we finish up the unit we begin to look at how climate change occurs by researching and answering the question “What will happen to hurricanes in the next 100 years?” We then take that thinking about climate change into the rest of our year by looking at how organisms have changed over time in our second unit, Mastodons and Megalodons. The question that we will be working on for quarter two will be, “How have the geology and life forms of Maryland changed over time? How do we know?”

### World History

Throughout the first quarter in American History, students are learning about colonial America and the American Revolution. In Unit 1, students will examine the Revolutionary War. Students will analyze primary sources from the Revolutionary War and answer the question: “If you were a soldier at Valley Forge, would you have quit?” Also, students will use their analyses of the primary sources to construct an extended written response to the question. This activity puts the students in the shoes of soldiers in the Continental Army through exploration of historical documents. Classes will also analyze the Treaty of Paris in order to determine the impact of the terms of the treaty of the lives of Americans. Afterwards, they will review important information from the unit and synthesize this content in a comic strip, rap, story, or play/movie script.

### Chinese

Students have been doing a great job learning about food, tastes, allergies in Chinese. From creating menus to performing restaurant skits, students are demonstrating mastery in both their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. The week of November 1 starts students taking their Unit 1 test. Please ensure that students are studying, using the online Quizlet links found on their Schoology page for Chinese.
### Spanish

**Ms. Wong**- Students have been enthusiastic about learning Spanish. Student participation has been excellent. Continue to remind your students to bring their laptops charged every day. Students have been learning how to describe how they are now compared to when they were younger. They will be taking their Unit 1 test the week of November 1st. In Unit 2 students will be learning how to describe living a healthy lifestyle. Students should be reviewing their vocabulary and any assignments. Continue to encourage students to participate in class.

**Ms. Lint**- Students have learned so much during this marking period. They learned Spanish weather and the calendar where they need to write the date and weather in each assignment. Now all of my students write in each assignment. In Novice Level B students learned about their fears in the past and their fears now. Now they are learning about professions and what they would like to be when they grow up. In intermediate Spanish they are writing Spanish paragraphs about what they have been doing before and what they would like to do to have an ideal life. All my students have learned so much in this marking period. I can’t wait to teach them more!

AMS art students spent first quarter creating their own unique art journal covers, as well as designing a portfolio that incorporates their own interest and background. These materials will be used daily to assist students in staying organized in the art room throughout the rest of the year. Going into second quarter, art students will participate in the BCPS Visual Arts Check-In where they will review observational drawing techniques in order to successfully render form using the elements of art. Students will learn drawing techniques such as hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling, while having ample opportunity to practice drawing what they see. These skills are the foundation for upcoming units where students will begin to incorporate different materials such as paint, pastels, charcoal, and more.

We are all so excited to have students playing instruments and singing in person. We have the protective gear: masks and bell covers etc. The Band masks should be washed occasionally.

We started out the year with a celebration of International Peace Day where our 7th and 8th grade ensembles performed “Be the Change” outside for the student body. We also took a “PEACE WALK” around the school and decorated the sidewalks with chalk. It was a fun day!

The Festival Choir, Jazz band, Concert Orchestra and Arbutus Wind Ensemble visited and performed very well for 3 of our feeder schools on October 27th. Thank you to the many parents who chaperoned and were our ‘roadies’. The students at CES, AES and RES were
thrilled to see the performing groups from Arbutus Middle! The ensembles looked very professional in their black polos and black pants.

All the students in the Band, Chorus and Orchestra classes are practicing for the Winter Concerts. You should hear practicing at home! Everyone needs to practice to be successful.

The Winter Concerts are:
Dec 14th – 6th grade Band, Chorus and Orchestra
Dec. 15th-- 7th grade and Jazz Band
Dec 16th - Arbutus Wind Ensemble, Festival Choir/8th grade and Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra

The concerts will have live audiences (we hope). Limited seating and masks are required. Mr. Moser has agreed to see about streaming the concert so people can watch at home. It will definitely be recorded so people can view at their leisure.

We would like the 6th and 7th graders to purchase and wear the white AMS Music Polo shirt for the concerts. (8th graders and after school groups wear black) The order forms for the white shirts are coming home soon and will be due November 17th. If the shirt is not ordered and paid for by Nov. 17th your child can wear their own white shirt with black long pants.

We spent our first quarter engaging in team building, in soccer, badminton and flag football units and completing our Fitness gram testing. Moving forward in second quarter we are getting ready for our cross-county unit followed by basketball, floor hockey and tinikling. Please be sure that students are coming to school ready to participate in P.E. appropriate attire or bringing it with them to change into in the locker room. As the weather continues to get colder, please make sure students have sweatshirts and sweatpants. We will be going outside as long as possible this year. We were very excited to continue the tradition of our annual Turkey Trot! Congratulations to those who placed in each grade.

Boys 6th
1 Jeff Wilson
2 Bonaventure Adams
3 Tayte Willoughby
Girls 6th
1 Caroline Greenwood
2 Trinity Geoghegan
3 Ava Sharp/Sarah Mejia

Boys 7th
1 Santi Bianco
2 Dylan Gross/
Duncan Film
3 Caleb Chesgreen
Girls 7th
1 Kaitlyn Welsh
2 Madalynn Phillips
3 Olivia Parton

Boys 8th
1.Craig Meseke/
Jack Athas
2 Liam Neal
Girls 8th
1 Kaia Gross
2 Millie Lauderbaugh
3 Olivia Jenkins
Who we are:

Arbutus Middle School Counseling Office: 443-809-1404
Records and Counseling Office Secretary: Ms. Wallman: kwallman@bcps.org
Grade 6: Ms. Burton eburton@bcps.org
Grade 7: Ms. Edwards tedwards2@bcps.org
Grade 8: Ms. Gardner kgardner4@bcps.org
School Social Worker: Ms. Dizard rdizard@bcps.org

What We Do:

In our role as School Counselors, we work with ALL students. In order to ensure that all of our students receive School Counseling services, we have created and implemented a School Counseling program that is comprehensive in scope, preventative in design, and developmental in nature. We deliver our services through various interventions: Individual brief solution-focused counseling, Group Counseling, Coordination, Consultation, and Large Group Guidance Lessons.

School Counseling at Arbutus Middle

Quarter 1 Counseling By the Numbers:

830 Individual sessions: Academic advising- 360 Social/Emotional sessions – 470
21 Small Group Sessions
13 Counseling Lessons Provided

Helpful Items for Parents

College & Career Readiness Newsletter: https://www.smore.com/eqr31

ACADEMICS

Parents need to have a BCPS Focus account in order to access Schoology to view student grades.

Please be aware that you must have a working email address on file with the school in order to create an account. Please call the school at 443-809-1411 if you need to add an email.

Please follow these instructions to create a parent account in B2C.
Note: It will take up to 30 minutes to gain access to Focus and up to 48 hours to access Schoology. There is a link within the Focus portal that will take you directly to Schoology once it is active. If you click this link before the account is active you will receive an error.

ATTENDANCE

Any time a student is absent from school, an email or hard copy note must be provided to the First Period teacher upon returning to school.

** OFFICIAL MSDE ATTENDANCE RULE A full-time student must be present for at least 4 hours to be marked present for a full day. A full-time student must be present at least 2 hours to be marked half-day present. Full-time students present for less than 2 hours will be marked as absent.

BCPS RULE 5120 III. Lawful and Unlawful Absences A. Lawful Absence 1. In accordance with Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), a student enrolled in BCPS will be considered lawfully absent from school for any portion of the school day under the following conditions: a. Death in the immediate family. b. Illness of the student. (1) The principal or pupil personnel worker (PPW) may require a physician’s certificate from the parent/guardian of a student reported continuously absent for illness. c. Court Summons. d. Hazardous weather conditions, which would endanger the health or safety of the student when in transit to and from school. e. Work approved or sponsored by the school, BCPS or the Maryland State Department of Education and accepted by the Superintendent or the school principal, or their designees, as reason for excusing the student. f. Observance of a religious holiday. g. State emergency. h. Other emergency or set of circumstances, which, in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school. i. Health exclusion. j. Suspension. k. Lack of authorized transportation. Lack of transportation does not include students denied authorized transportation for disciplinary reasons.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING

Students must complete 75 service-learning hours in order to graduate from a Baltimore County Public School. Some courses offer infused service-learning hours into its curriculum. For most students following a typical sequence of middle school courses, completing all activities within the course, 60 hours of service learning will be met as follows:

6th Grade - Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, and Project Lead the Way
7th Grade - Art, and Project Lead the Way
8th Grade - Science and Health

When students complete middle school, they could have accumulated 60 service-learning hours if they have attended school regularly and made-up any missing work related to the service learning curriculum infusion courses.

Students may be able to earn additional service-learning hours though student-initiated service in the community, extra-curricular activities, and special projects.

Please refer to BCPS’s Student Service Learning Website for more information including project forms: :
Please complete the Service Learning Pre-approval and Reflection Forms for service learning projects done outside of school and return to Ms. Gardner (kgardner4@bcps.org) in the School Counseling Office when hours have been completed:

- Independent SL Activity Pre-Approval Form
- Independent SL Activity Reflection Form

Mrs. Parker

As Quarter 1 ends, encourage your students to strive to do their best. The transition to middle school, can take longer for some students than others. Students must adjust to instructional and behavioral expectations, that are different from elementary school. Grades are always available to you. Support your student by checking their grades on the 5th, 15th, and 25th of every month to ensure they are on track. I am a support for your student and feel free to contact me at lparker2@bcps.org.

Transportation:

Transportation throughout BCPS has been a challenge. Some buses are arriving 30-60 minutes late to pick up our students in the morning and afternoon. While this is an unfair situation for all parties, we ask for patience as The Transportation Office works diligently to rectify the problem. Please contact me with any questions you may have about transportation.

Mrs. Owens

Congratulations parents, we have quarter one complete! Since we are at the start of second quarter, please have your child show you their grades weekly. This year is important for all our 7th grade students who are thinking about applying for a magnet school. Magnet school program applications are due at the beginning of the 8th grade year, which means that this year, is so important both academically and behaviorally. Remember that both grades and behavior will impact student participation in the quarterly incentives, Student of the Month, and any pop-up incentives. Speaking of our quarterly incentive, our first one is coming up before Thanksgiving break!
Parents, just a few reminders so you can support our school procedures. Due to COVID tracing, there is assigned table seating in the cafeteria and students need to sit with their 3rd period class. We only allow cell phone use during students' lunch times, they are not to be used in class, therefore, if you need to communicate with your student due to an emergency, please call the main office. Following our school procedures and expectations ensures students are ready for success. Making these daily choices into routines and habits will lead to a successful year. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mrs. Owens at mowens7@bcps.org.

Mr. Warren

Congratulations to all our 8th graders on finishing the first quarter of their final year of middle school. As we transition into second quarter, our 8th graders will begin preparing for the transition from middle to high school. Many students have already completed magnet high school applications and the time for high school course requests is soon approaching. In the coming quarter students will receive presentations from their zoned high school on 9th grade course offerings and the course selection process. More information will be made available once presentation dates are finalized.

As part of our goal to provide students with a well-rounded curriculum during their middle school experience our 8th grade students will engage in a Computational Learning Module during second quarter. During PRIDE for the quarter students will work through coding modules on Code.org, designed to teach students the fundamentals of coding. The modules are self-paced, with some required and optional modules.

We look forward to a positive and productive second quarter. If you have any questions related to your 8th grade student, please reach out to Perry Warren at pwarren@bcps.org or 443-809-1402.
I am so happy to be able to see all the students back in the school building! A few reminders to make sure that we are keeping everyone safe and healthy!

- Please make sure your child wears a mask to school every day. The mask must cover the nose and mouth.
- Please have your child bring his/her own water bottle to school so they can fill it up at the water cooler if needed.
- If your child is feeling sick (fever, cough, stomach upset, sore throat), please keep them home from school and contact your healthcare provider.
- Please contact me if your child has had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or your child has tested positive for COVID-19 as soon as you find out. It is important that I have this information so that I can quickly contact trace.
- If you need information on COVID-19 and vaccinations, please find it here https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

Thank you for all that you do to support our students! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Ewoody2@bcps.org or 443-809-6500.