Quarter 1/2 Community Newsletter

AS FALL TURNS TO WINTER...

It is certainly hard to believe we have reached the end of Quarter 1 for the 2020-2022 school year! As we move into Quarter 2, we’d like to share the first community newsletter. In this publication, we will share highlights from each department for all grades, from Littlest Eagles to our 8th Graders. We hope you find this newsletter helpful, as it will provide curricular updates, event information, and school news.

Thank you for continuing to support our movement from virtual to hybrid to in-person instruction. This first quarter has certainly been an adventure in re-acclimating ourselves to the routines and structures of the schoolhouse. It would be impossible without the love, dedication, and support of all our stakeholders.

Has your child talked about the multiple after-school clubs and activities happening this year? Please know we offer chess, art club, Student Council, Fitness Club, and much more!

As always, we remind our families how critical daily attendance is for students. Arriving to school on time every day sets students up for success, not only for the current school year, but for their educational journey. MSDE expects all students to meet the 94% attendance benchmark each school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

With November 8 marking the beginning of Quarter 2, we are looking ahead to the following dates:

- November 23: Elementary Conference Day (no school for Grade 4&5)
- December TBD: Good News Notes/Honor Roll Assembly
- Winter Break: December 23-January 3
- No School Monday, January 17 (MLK Jr Holiday)

PTA:

Thanks to the many families who participated in Joe Corbi’s. It was a very successful fundraiser. Thank You for supporting Holabird PTA. The $8.00 membership helps to support so many activities throughout the year. Please consider joining.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Students in AVID have been practicing Costa’s level of questioning in preparation for tutorials, creating engaging debates, and participating in Socratic seminars. Students have been engaged in learning best practices of time management that they can apply to their lives.
SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Hi! My name is Ms. Dana Foot – I am your new Special Education Chair at Holabird Middle School. I live in the area and have taught and lead at Dundalk area schools for 18 years.

Student’s with Individual Education Plans (I.E.P) – Parents please review your child’s IEP with them. Students should know their supports and accommodations to self-advocate.

If you have a question or concern regarding your child’s IEP – please contact their I.E.P. Case-manager. Feel free to also contact me at dfoot@bcps.org or 443-809-4790.

Community Based Field Trips for FALS Students (Functional Academic Living Skills):
11/19 Wallking field trip to Weis to purchase Thanksgiving Feast Supplies

World Languages: French & Spanish

Students continue to work through beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of world languages. Please be sure to encourage your child to practice vocabulary and fluency nightly. Coach classes are available.

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Our school counseling department is dedicated to providing a comprehensive school counseling program to alleviate barriers and help all students reach their fullest potential. Counselors play a vital role in the school environment and community and help students to close the academic achievement gaps, social/emotional needs, and establish a safe environment. We recognize that all students have gifts and talents and we embrace diversity.

All professional school counselors adhere to the National American School Counseling Association (ASCA) model (www.schoolcounselor.org)

All of the HMS counselors have been conducting classroom lessons since September.

Some topics covered:

Who’s Your Counselor?
Middle & High School Magnet Overview
HS Magnet Presentations (delivered by HS magnet coordinators)
Naviance 6 Year Plans-Post-Secondary
Career/College Planning
S.M.A.R.T Goals
Empathy, Compassion & Positivity
Marble Jar Friends
Kindness Matters-Bullying Prevention
Conflict Resolution
UMBC ETS Speaker

You can reach the school counseling office and individual counselors by calling 443-809-7148

or by email at the following addresses:

Ms. Beckmann, 4th and 5th grades
pbeckmann@bcps.org

Ms. Ferges, 6th grade (last names ending M-Z) and 7th grade
jferges@bcps.org

Mrs. Cosgrove, 6th grade (last names ending A-L) and 8th grade
ncosgrove@bcps.org

Ms. Edwards, School Counseling Secretary
gedwards@bcps.org
**PE REMINDER FOR ALL GRADES**

We are glad to have students back in the building participating in Physical Education. In Physical Education the students have been learning about individual fitness and invasions sports during the first quarter. They participated in the FitnessGram test for fitness. The FitnessGram measure the student’s muscle strength, endurance, flexibility and cardio-vascular endurance. Invasion games consist of games were one team will evade the opponent’s area attempting to score. Some examples of invasion games are soccer, football, and ultimate frisbee.

![Image](image1.png)

*The more children read, the better readers they become.*

**ART DEPARTMENT**

**Ms. Loxley:** Holabird’s 4th and 5th grade artists have studied and practiced portraiture and still life drawing so far this year. The Photo-booth Self-Portraits were done in colored pencil after students learned how to draw the face using correct proportions. We discussed different emotions and how to communicate them in a drawing. For example, the eyebrows make a huge impact on the expression of the face. During the Pumpkin Still Life Unit, students practiced oil pastel techniques such as blending. Students demonstrated over lapping, shadow and high lighting. These perspective techniques helped students achieve a more 3-dimensional look for their pumpkins.

**Mrs. Peller:** The 6th grade art students have been studying the Art Elements, the basic parts of Art. We have created paper masks using Symmetry and Line. We also used contour line to create pumpkin drawings from life. Oil pastels and drawing cylinder forms were used to create our delicious cake creation drawings. We will continue with the Art Elements as the semester progresses.

**Mr. Chipps:** The 7th grade art students started the year off with reviewing the Color Wheel and the relationships between colors before diving into the Identity Unit. In this unit, students have created magazine collages, personal shields and planetary posters. In this last project each student created a travel poster to a world that was all about themselves or a place where anything could happen. The purpose of this project was to allow the student to explore their unlimited self-expression and individualism.

**Mrs. Sura:** The 8th grade art students have been busy working on building their skills and self-expression using paint, oil pastels and permanent markers. They studied the work of several artists, but focused on the style of Vincent Van Gogh to create abstract work, landscapes and haunted houses. The haunted houses were by far their favorite and several were sent out to be a part of a county wide digital art show. I am so proud of all the hard work I am seeing in our studio!
**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

4th Grade - The fourth grade is finishing Unit 1 which was about Geography and Economics and are beginning Unit 2 which will have students learn about the Earliest Americans.

5th Grade - The fifth grade is finishing Unit 1 which was about Colonial America and are beginning Unit 2 which will have students learn about the American Revolution.

6th Grade - The sixth grade is finishing Unit 1 which was about Geography and Early Civilizations and are beginning Unit 2 which will have students learn about Foundational Civilizations.

7th Grade - The seventh grade is in the process of completing Unit 1 which was had students learn about Religious and Trade Empires and will be starting Unit 2 which will have students learn about Medieval Europe.

8th Grade - In the eighth grade we are completing Unit 1 which had students learn about Revolutionary America which includes the key principles of the Declaration of Independence. Students will shortly be starting Unit 2 in which students will learn about our early nation including the major principles of our American democracy.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

In fourth grade Language Arts, quarter 2 classes will conduct an author study of Kate DiCamillo by reading various novels and stories by Katie DiCamillo including Because of Winn-Dixie, Louise, The Adventure of a Chicken, and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Students will analyze important life events by researching Kate DiCamillo to understand how an author’s life can influence her writing.

Students in Grade 5 will read primary and secondary sources about the American Revolution while learning and applying CCRS informational reading standards. With a focus on perspective, students will explore the road to the American Revolution through multiple points of view as they read like historians to uncover truths from this noteworthy time period. Several of the primary and secondary sources referenced throughout the unit come from Short Nonfiction for American History: The American Revolution and Constitution by Aimee Goodva and Stephanie Harvey.

In Ms. Engelman's 6th grade classes, we will be starting our unit on "Facing Our Fears and Dealing with Disasters" while starting our next novel Esperanza Rising. In 7th grade, we will be starting our unit on "Analyzing Poets' and Playwright's Choices" and continuing to read our novel Peak.

In Mrs. Lame's 6th grade 6th grade standard classes 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. The novel will be "The Watson's Go to Birmingham". Meanwhile, the 6th grade advanced academic students will explore genres of literature and how authors use the genre to comment upon society. The novel will be "The Giver". In the 7th grade advanced academic class, students will engage in a variety of reading activities to explore poetry and drama as literary and art forms. Their novel will be a self-selected novel in verse.

In Ms. Staff's room, 7th grade students will be examining elements of poetry, specifically looking for central ideas and themes, in order to create their own poems. In the second half of the quarter students will be examining suspense by analyzing various plays.

In Mr. Staff's room, quarter 2 classes will examine the importance of structure and organization in both fiction and non-fiction texts. The novel will be "They Called Us Enemy". Meanwhile, the advanced academic students will dig deep into Shakespeare while examining the development of themes in Midsummer Night's Dream.

In Ms. Mims' room, quarter 2 classes will examine the importance of structure and organization in both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will also continue to sharpen their grammar skills and will read the novel Chasing Lincoln's Killer.

In the Reading classrooms, Ms. Richard and Ms. Hoey are heading Workshop 2 of the Read 180 program and will focus on skills building toward the final project of writing an argument essay. The lessons will touch on finding the central idea of a text, citing evidence to support a claim, analyzing cause and effect, and making inferences.

Ms. Behringer's Reading 180 classes will work on narrative nonfiction skills. We will also end the workshop with an informative essay. Ms. Behringer's Just Words classes will work on multi-syllabic skills.
MATH DEPARTMENT

Grade 4 - Completed Unit 1 on basic multiplication and division and focused on using models, various strategies, and comparisons for solving problems. In Unit 2, students will continue to build upon their reasoning as they work with multi-digit multiplication and early division. They will use base ten pieces and sketches to model multiplication problems and to solve word problems.

Grade 5 - Just finished up Unit 1, which focused on volume, equations, and multiplication strategies. Unit 2 of the new Bridges curriculum focuses on fraction operations and equivalent fractions. Students are using money and clock models to write and use equivalent fractions.

Grade 6 - We started the year off by identifying integers, as well as, comparing and ordering rational numbers. We are currently working on solving math problems involving all operations using fractions and decimals. Students will continue to use these skills throughout the school year as we move into Ratios and Proportions later this quarter.

Grade 7 - We finished up Unit 1 which were topics related to the Real Number System. We are moving into Unit 2 which discusses topics related to Ratios and Proportionality.

Grade 8 – During Quarter 1 students worked with Real Numbers, Exponents, Scientific Notation and Volume. We are starting Quarter 2 by working with Proportional and Non-Proportional Relationships. Later during the Quarter, we will work with Solving Equations and Systems of Equations.

Algebra 1 – Students are actively working on topics related to Unit 1 which focuses on Linear Functions and Models. Next, they will begin diving into the wonders of Exploring Linear Relationships.

Geometry – Students during Quarter 1 explored the Foundations of Geometry, as well as, Extending Transformational Geometry. We will start Quarter 2 working on Geometric Reasoning and eventually moving towards Popperdecular and Parallel Lines.

“The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics.” —Halmos

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Fourth grade scientists have been learning how to write a Claim-Evidence-Response to explain our science thinking. We are beginning our Geologic Journeys unit where we will explore the geography of the United States and the geography in Egypt to identify how we can prevent or reduce the effects of Earth’s changes over time.

In Grade 5, students have begun studying Ecology in Part I of our unit “Schoolyard Sustainabil-ity.” The unit scenario for Part I is as follows:

“How can people effectively manage Baltimore County’s ecosystems? That is a BIG question and one that has a lot of potential solutions. To help you narrow the scope of the question, you and your team will focus primarily on your schoolyard. Specifically, by the end of this unit, you will work with your team to develop an action plan to improve, or maintain, your schoolyard’s biodi-versity. This isn’t just going to be a project proposal. This will be an action plan that will be able to be shared with the community and/or put into action!”

Part II of this unit will be taught in the spring. The lessons will include a field study that is con-ducted with our outdoor science teachers, onsite. Additionally, Fall is a great time to discuss science concepts with children. Did you know that many of the smallest organisms rely on the fall leaves for habitat? Take time to explore the outdoors while the weather is cooperative. Turn over a rock or some leaves. What do you see? Ask questions like how and why. Your children are amazing thinkers! Get them talking and impressing you out there.

Attention Middle School Scientists:
Remember you can sched-ule coach class time with Mrs. Miller, Ms. Guardia, Ms. Carolan, or Mr. Quinn. This can be for lunch time on certain days or by ap-pointment after school.
TITLE I UPDATES:
Please know that we continue to value parent and student input. We offer events each month related to Title I. We hope to see you there!

Next event:
Coffee & Chat with the Principal
January 12, 2022

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPT.
The Littlest Eagles Fitness Club is quite a hit! Please remember to encourage your student to be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day and to make sure they are drinking plenty of water!

BB Season is upon us! Be on the look-out for the game schedule. Please note that students will be using SOAR tickets as cost of entry, not cash.

REMINDER: DRESS FOR PE INCLUDES APPROPRIATE SHOES. NO SANDALS OR SLIDES.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Ms. Barrett & Ms. Evans
Grade 4 & 5. under the direction of Ms. Barrett, have been working on everything from instrument identification to various musical pieces. Please look for more information from Ms. Barrett relating to instruments and music options for next school year.

Grade 6, 7 & 8 Chorus, under the direction of Ms. Evans, have been working on various components of vocal music. This includes relatable pieces of music, that children often have a voice in choosing!

Mr. Charrin, Mr. Klein, Mr. Chittams
Band, Strings, and General Music classes have really adjusted to a year+ without practice of select instruments. Our Music Department recognizes that many children were without their instruments during COVID closures. As a result, we will not host a Winter Music Concert this year. Instead, the music department and performers will practice skills and pieces to prepare for a top-notch concert in the Spring!

Spring Musical!
We are super excited to resume our plans for a Spring Musical/Drama production. Beauty and the Beast, Jr. will be presented to our community this April!