Quarter 2-3 Community Newsletter

100 DAYS+

It is certainly hard to believe we have reached the middle of the 2019-2020 school year! As we move through Quarter 3, we’d like to share the second community newsletter of the year. 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 to those who participated in the various parent engagement events that have taken place so far this year (three Coffee & Chats, two FAM events, two APTT meetings, Conference Nights, AVID Night, Family Food Night, etc.). As always, it’s never too late to join the PTA. We appreciate the support of our parents and volunteers.

Has your child talked about Eagles’ Nest? This fantastic addition to our weekly schedule is helping teachers and students to connect on a whole new level. During the last Eagles’ Nest, many students focused on work completion as we head to the next marking period.

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 March 6 marking the middle of Quarter 3, we are looking ahead to the following dates:

- March 11: Conference Night (Middle)
- March 18: Math Night 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- April 1: NJHS Induction Ceremony
- Quarter 3 ends April 3
- Spring Break: April 6-April 13 (return Tuesday, April 14)

PTA:

Thanks to the many families who participated in World’s Finest Chocolate sales. 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Special Education ..................2
School Counseling ..................2
Art & Tech............................3
ELA & Social Studies ..................4
AVID ..................................4
Science & Math .......................5
Music & PE ............................6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Please be sure to check the table in the front lobby for community events fliers and school news.
Our school counseling department is dedicated to providing a comprehensive school counseling program to alleviate barriers and help all students reach their fullest potential. We have been focused on the delivery of our Closing of the Gap Plans and embracing our new School Counseling Belief Statements for 2019-2020 school year.

School Counseling Belief Statements “Our Core Values”

We believe each student is unique and has special abilities, talents, and interests that must be recognized and nurtured.

We believe that given proper support to all students so they have access to achieve at high levels in a developmentally appropriate manner according to their strengths.

We believe that building relationships is the key to being a successful student advocate, guide, and liaison between all members of the school community.

We believe a successful program requires the support and participation of all school personnel, parents, guardians, outside agencies, and the community at large.

We believe each student is a unique individual who is capable of learning and deserving of dignity and respect.

We believe Parents and families are partners in the educational journey for all students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Mooney’s Functional Academic Learning Support (FALS) Class attended two Community Based Instruction Trips 2nd Quarter. First trip was to the Maryland Science Center. On the Science Center Trip students studied reading signs and maps in order to navigate a large building. They also observed Science exhibits and participated with hand on Science simulations. The second field trip was to McFadden’s Art Glass Studio. Students studied how glass is made and listening and following instructions for safety. Student did a great job following instructions, creating either a marble, necklace pendant or ice icicle. On the way back from the McFadden’s students went to McDonald’s Restaurant. At McDonald’s students observed and learned about the different roles of restaurant employees. The next school day after the McDonald’s trip, the students simulated the job roles that they observed. Student prepared, and cooked hamburgers, took hamburger orders (referring to menus that they had developed), worked as cashiers, servers and on a cleaning crew.

In the Social Emotional Learning SEL program – Students are learning about different emotions and emotional regulation using activities in the Zones of Regulation Curriculum. Mr. Salaris and Mr. Cargo are very engaged in the process.

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.

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, 7th grade (last names ending A-L) and 8th grade
jferges@bcps.org

Mrs. Cosgrove, 7th grade (last names ending M-Z) and 6th grade
ncosgrove@bcps.org

Ms. Lewis, School Counseling Secretary
slewis7@bcps.org
**EIE: The Technology Program for our Littlest Eagles**

*EiE* is an excellent inquiry-based STEM curriculum that teaches students thinking and reasoning skills needed for success. Built around the engineering design process, *EiE* teaches kids how to solve problems systematically . . . creating skills, optimism, and attitudes important for their futures.

Please reach out to Mr. Scheide or Ms. Ballard if you have any questions.

---

**ART DEPARTMENT**

4th & 5th just completed Bubble & Block letter Name project

4th - Snowmen At Night - Chalk drawing showing movement and form

5th - Self-portraits

6th graders continued their focus on the Art Elements during Quarter 2. Crayon resist paintings focusing on shapes found in nature, Pop Art symbols done with oil pastels and eye-catching Cereal Box Designs were created.

7th graders focused on the Design Principles. In Mrs. Peller’s classes students completed paintings emphasizing a chosen Principle, Zentangle line designs and Student Coat of Arms created through study of Heraldry and symbols. In Mrs. Sura’s classes, 7th graders completed a series of cut paper pieces that explored positive and negative space.

8th graders completed three major pieces for second quarter: large flower drawings inspired by the artist Georgia O’Keeffe, an abstract piece where they had to hide a triangle in a work of art, and a collage of a bird made from torn magazines. All three projects explored different materials and allowed students to solve challenging visual problems.

6th and 7th grades in Mrs. Peller’s class participated in the State’s Attorney’s Office Anti Drug Poster Contest and hope to hear good news of a winning design in the month of April.

Students who had Art first semester have completed their Fine Arts requirement for this school year as they move on to Technology Education for the second semester. All new Art students are reminded to bring their sketchbooks to class to be used for quarters 3 and 4.
In 6th grade, 7th and 8th grade

AVID

In AVID we are collecting permission slips for our field trip to the CCBC college fair. Spaces are limited to the first 40 students who turn in their permission slips. Students will be able to gather information about multiple colleges that may interest them in the future. Students are continuing to practice: time-management, note-taking, organization and speaking skills. Students will also be researching future career opportunities and possible college destinations.

SOARing With The Eagles

The view is great at Holabird STEM Middle School! Working with the Eagle Scholars has been a true honor. We have successfully moved from Day 1 to the midyear mark. We saw tremendous growth in MAP scores in every grade, both Reading and Math. We celebrated over 270 students making the Q2 Honor Roll.

If you are faced with any challenges, be sure to positively communicate your needs and we will work to make sure you have the resources that you need in order to be successful. SOARing Eagles fly high by following school wide expectations and being model citizens throughout the community. Continue to enjoy the view Eagle Scholars, as you SOAR high.

Mrs. Booker

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

In 4th grade Social Studies students have just finished Unit 3 which was about the goals and consequences of exploration and early settlement? Students will now be going into Unit 4 which is about the political, economic, and social motives for English settlers and how were the early colonies governed?

In 5th grade Social Studies students are finishing Unit 2 about the American Revolution. When this unit is complete they will move onto Unit 3 which is about how the Framers created a government that formed “a more perfect union?”.

In 6th grade Social Studies students have just finished Unit 3 about which was about global emerging powers. Students will begin Unit 4. This unit will explore civilizations that expanded beyond their local area and imposed control, bringing about cultural unity in larger areas. Students will then examine factors that led to the collapse of the empire.

In 7th grade Social Studies have just finished Unit about Times of Change. Students are about to begin Unit 4, Pre-Columbian Civilizations. In this unit, students will explore various civilizations in the Americas before and immediately after European contact.

In 8th grade students are finishing up Unit 3 about the formation of the American government and the early years of the United States. Students are about to begin Unit 4 about the territorial growth of the United States. In this unit, students will study the challenges that the United States confronted during the early 19th century. Students will also begin Unit 5, Sectionalism and Slavery. In this unit, students will study the causes and effects of regional diversity in 19th century America. Students will examine early industrialization and immigration: why industry grew so rapidly, why there was an influx of immigrants, and how these factors impacted American society. Students will investigate early social reform movements and their influence on the lives of Americans. Students will examine the quality of life of enslaved people and the efforts of enslaved peoples and abolitionists to resist, escape, and abolish slavery. Students will construct support for the concept of sectionalism through an examination of the political, economic, and social characteristics of the North and South.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Students in English/Language Arts are working hard! In grade 6, the novels Esperanza Rising or Call of the Wild sets the scene for a study on ways characters change over time. Grade 7 is diving deeper into historical fiction, using several books as well as historical sources. In grade 8, the students are investigating ways that strangers in a new culture can integrate into society, with a choice between the novels Refugee or Letters From Rifka. Parents, continue to sign reading logs and continue to ask your child what he or she is reading!

Meanwhile, over in grade 4, it’s all about social issues. Students are learning about the power of information by creating an info-graphic related to a chosen topic. Grade 5 students are exploring an author’s craft, sampling a variety of folklore including tall tales, poetry, and novels. Parents, thank you for supporting our reading initiatives, including SOAR Reading Time. Encourage your child to bring a book or magazine they are interested in for reading in class!

In Reading, we are going to continue to focus on our AVID reading strategies. In addition to annotation, we are taking notes to develop an awareness of the inner conversations we have as we read and working on tracking our thinking. This will help with monitoring comprehension and encourage development of methods to help readers self-correct and better understand the meaning of our reading. For some, we are refining our reading skills through the Just Words Program.

Parents are encouraged to review student’s I.E.P. with them at home – students need to know their strengths, needs and accommodations. Likewise, once a week review student’s grades with them on Schoology. If students have concerns with their grades they should work with their teachers and I.E.P. Case-managers to help improve their grades (often making up missing assignments or re-doing a low score – greatly increases a student’s grade).
MATH DEPARTMENT

Grade 4 - Students have just began their Unit on fractions. They will be using fractions to represent parts of regions/areas, parts of sets, parts of measures, division or ratios.

Grade 5 - Students are beginning their unit on fractions. This unit includes: fractions and mixed numbers being represented in multiple ways. Using models to represent story problems with fractions facilitates understanding the problem and the meanings of the numbers in the problem. Estimating fractional quantities facilitates keeping track of the meaning of quantities and whether solutions make sense. Common denominators and fraction models can be used to find sums and differences of fractions and mixed numbers.

Grade 6 - We are currently working on solving math problems involving topics such as, order of operations, exponents, prime factorization and expressions. This will lead us to the topics of equations, inequalities and graphing on a coordinate plane.

GT 6 - Students have just finished their equations and inequalities and will be moving on to finding area of squares, rectangles, triangles, trapezoids and circles. We are also working on a Stock Market Challenge in which students have selected a copy to invest in and will track their gains and losses over the next couple of weeks.

Grade 7 - We are wrapping up Unit 3 which included expressions, equations and inequalities. We will be continuing forward into Unit 4 soon which is all about Statistics and Probability.

Grade 8 - We have just began our new unit on Solving Equations and Systems of Equations. We will then move into our next unit which will be covering topics related to Exponential Functions.

Algebra 1 - Students have finished Unit 2 which focused on Exploring Linear Relationships. We will be diving into our next unit which is Properties and Attributes of Triangles.

Geometry - Students have finished their unit on Theorems and Postulates related to Triangles and will be moving into their next topic which is Properties and Attributes of Triangles.

4th grade scientists have completed their Geologic Journeys science unit. We have started learning about energy. We will learn how energy can transfer from one form to another. Throughout this unit students will be working in cooperative groups using the engineering design process to design and build a prototype of a trash collection device. Fourth grade parents, we would love some recyclable materials such as cereal boxes, soda bottles, bubble wrap, and other clean materials that students could use to build their prototype.

We had a great second quarter in 5th grade science! We learned about physical and chemical changes to matter and visited the StarLab. In quarter 3, we will be working in our “Where’s the Water?” unit, in which we will learn information on the following "big ideas:" • Describe the ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and/or atmosphere interact • Describe the amounts of saltwater and fresh water in various reservoirs to explain distribution of water on Earth. • Evaluate ways that individual communities use science ideas to protect Earth’s resources and environment.

This is a great time to start discussions about how important water is to life on Earth. Be sure to ask your student about the new information he/she is studying in science. Thank you for your continued support, as always.

6th graders are currently diving into their Forces and Motion unit. In this unit we are focusing on Newton’s Laws of Motion. We will be learning how to predict an object’s continued motion and how changes in motion can happen.

7th graders have wrapped up with the unit “form follows function” which focused on body organization. We are currently working on unit 3 “the chemistry with in us” students are focusing on understanding chemical interactions in order to understand how living things obtain energy to live and grow. In this unit, students will conduct investigations, construct models, and analyze data to explain how the body uses sugar. Students will use their understanding of chemical reactions and the conservation of matter to explain how matter and energy are cycled through and between organisms. Students will conduct investigation to examine how the body uses both natural sugar and artificial sugar. By the end of the unit students will make a claim about whether or not artificial sugars have the same effect on the body as natural sugars."

8th graders have just finished their unit on heredity, genetic science and technology, and natural selection. Students investigate how traits are passed from parents to offspring and how structural changes to genes (mutations) may affect the structure and function of proteins that influence traits expressed in an organism. Understanding how traits are passed from one generation to the next provides the background for understanding artificial and natural selection can affect the genes that are passed from parents to offspring.

In Baywatchers club, we have been busy learning about biodiversity and how humans interact with the environment. We have dissected pinecones, created bird silhouettes, studied human impact on the Chesapeake Bay, cleaned up our campus, studied endangered species, and created informative posters about how to keep our pets safe during the holidays, among other activities. We are now planning events for Earth Day in April. Start saving those recyclables for us!
**TITLE I UPDATES:**

During the second quarter, families enjoyed an evening of learning, fun, and food at our AVID & Literacy Night. They learned more about AVID strategies and how to incorporate literacy learning at home. Many parents also joined us for our second Coffee & Chat with the principal and shared their ideas about how to improve the school community. We hope to see you for Family Math Night on March 18 from 4:30-6:30 PM.

Do you know what the Compact is? If you would like to find out more information about our Title I Program, the focus of our Resource Teachers, or how to get involved, please email Ms. Staley mstaley@bcps.org.

---

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**Ms. Barrett**

4th Grade: In music class we have been preparing for our Spring concert by singing music songs from various places in the world. We have also explored percussion instruments and are currently exploring the brass family and playing the trumpet!

5th Grade: In music class we have been preparing for our Spring concert by singing music songs from various places in the world. Those in instrumental have learned how to care for, hold, and play beginning notes on their instruments. We have even begun to learn some songs!

**Chorus:** In chorus class students have been working hard on sight-reading and are beginning to prepare for the Spring Concert. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at our Winter Concert! In 6th grade chorus, students are also working on a composition unit. In 7th and 8th grade chorus, students are continuing to prepare repertoire for assessment in March. As students make course selections for next year if you have any questions about joining chorus or continuing please email arichardson5@bcps.org.

**Strings:** In strings class students have been working hard on learning new music and concepts. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at our Winter Concert! In 7th & 8th grade strings, students have been working hard on assessment music and learning new scales. In 6th grade strings, students have been learning new notes, rhythms and songs in preparation for new music for the Spring Concert. As students make course selections for next year if you have any questions about joining strings or continuing please email dcharrin@bcps.org.

**Band:** In band class students have been working hard on learning new notes and rhythms. Students in 7th & 8th grade have been practicing assessment music while 6th grade students have been learning new notes and rhythms to prepare for the spring concert. Thank you to all who came and supported our students at the Winter Concert. As students make course selections for next year, if you have any questions about joining band or continuing please email dcharrin@bcps.org.

---

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPT.**

In Physical Education, the students have been working on the invasion unit during the second quarter. An invasion game is the term used for any game where the aim is to attack an opponent’s territory and score a goal or point. Usually consisting of teams of equal players these fast-paced games focus on teamwork, keeping possession, scoring and defending. The students had a great time participating in games like basketball, team handball and hockey. In addition to invasion games the students received health education. Going forward into the third quarter students will be working on net/wall games like volleyball.

**REMINDER:** DRESS FOR PE INCLUDES APPROPRIATE SHOES. NO SANDALS OR SLIDES. We will continue to go outside during Q3 unless inclement weather. Please be prepared with a sweatshirt and appropriate pants/sweats.