

BCMS News You Can Use

February 2020





Ballenger Creek Middle School

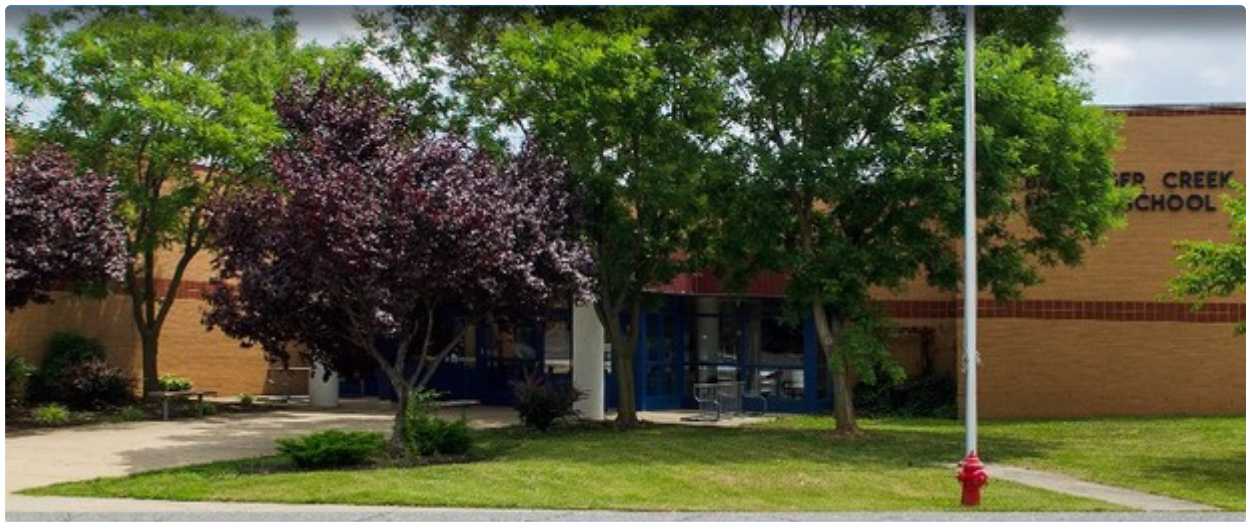
 Facebook

 @FCPS_BCMS

 5525 Ballenger Creek Pike, Fre...

 240-236-5700

 education.fcps.org/bcms/home



Message from our Administration

Hi everyone.

I hope you and your families are well as we enter the second half of the school year--the months are flying by, aren't they? While we are still very much in the present to serve you and your students each day, a number of staff members--counselors, specialists, special educators, and me--are also already beginning work to prepare for next year! Our 8th graders (and their parents) have already received and completed class registration forms that have been turned into the high school for next year. Our 6th and 7th graders (and their parents) will be receiving class registration forms for next school year next week (please ask your students for these on Tuesday the 18th). In addition, we have already visited

each of our elementary feeder schools to talk with the elementary teachers about our incoming 6th graders and we will be holding a parent information night for incoming 6th grade parents next Wednesday, February 19th from 6:00 – 7:40 p.m. in the cafeteria. It's a busy time of the year!

If you have any questions along the way as you plan for your children's schedules for next year, please don't hesitate to reach out to our counseling office (240-236-5710). They'll be happy to assist!

Take care,

Jay Schill
Principal

Calendar Reminders

Fri. Feb. 14-----Schools Close 2 Hours Early

Mon. Feb. 17-----Schools Closed

**Wed. Feb. 19-----BCMS Parent Info Night for Incoming 6th grade
6:00 – 7:40 in the Cafeteria**

Tue. Mar. 10 -----Spring Pictures



Families needing a sign language interpreter should contact Mrs. Gee at 240-236-5710 at least 10 days prior to the event.

Late Bus? Use the link below

Late Bus?

Did you know that FCPS has a transportation delay board. They can communicate with the public and schools when a bus is running 10 minutes or more late. The information may be accessed on the FCPS website at this link: <https://apps.fcps.org/transdelay/>



Food Delivery

We have had an increase in students having food delivered from fast food restaurants and families bringing students food from these places during the school day. We will no longer permit this. The office is an incredibly busy place during the school day and can no longer coordinate delivery of these orders on a daily basis. In the event a student forgets a lunch at home, it must be brought to school in a student lunchbox or brown bag.

In addition, students may not carry around food to share with friends on special occasions, such as a box of donuts on one's birthday. FCPS Regulation No. 400-82 states that for health and safety reasons, parents/visitors are only permitted to bring in food that is intended for consumption by their individual student. Students are only permitted to bring in food for their own personal consumption.

Spring Picture Day is Coming!

Picture Day is:
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Picture Day ID:
MJ729173Q0


Order today on
mylifetouch.com



Lifetouch



Spring Pictures Full Color Flyer - MJ729173Q0.pdf

 **Download**
4.2 MB

Keeping You Informed

Inclement Weather?

Here is how to Check School Status:

English: <https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/Frederick/GetFile.aspx?DocId=5581>

Spanish:

<https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/Frederick/GetFile.aspx?DocId=7817>

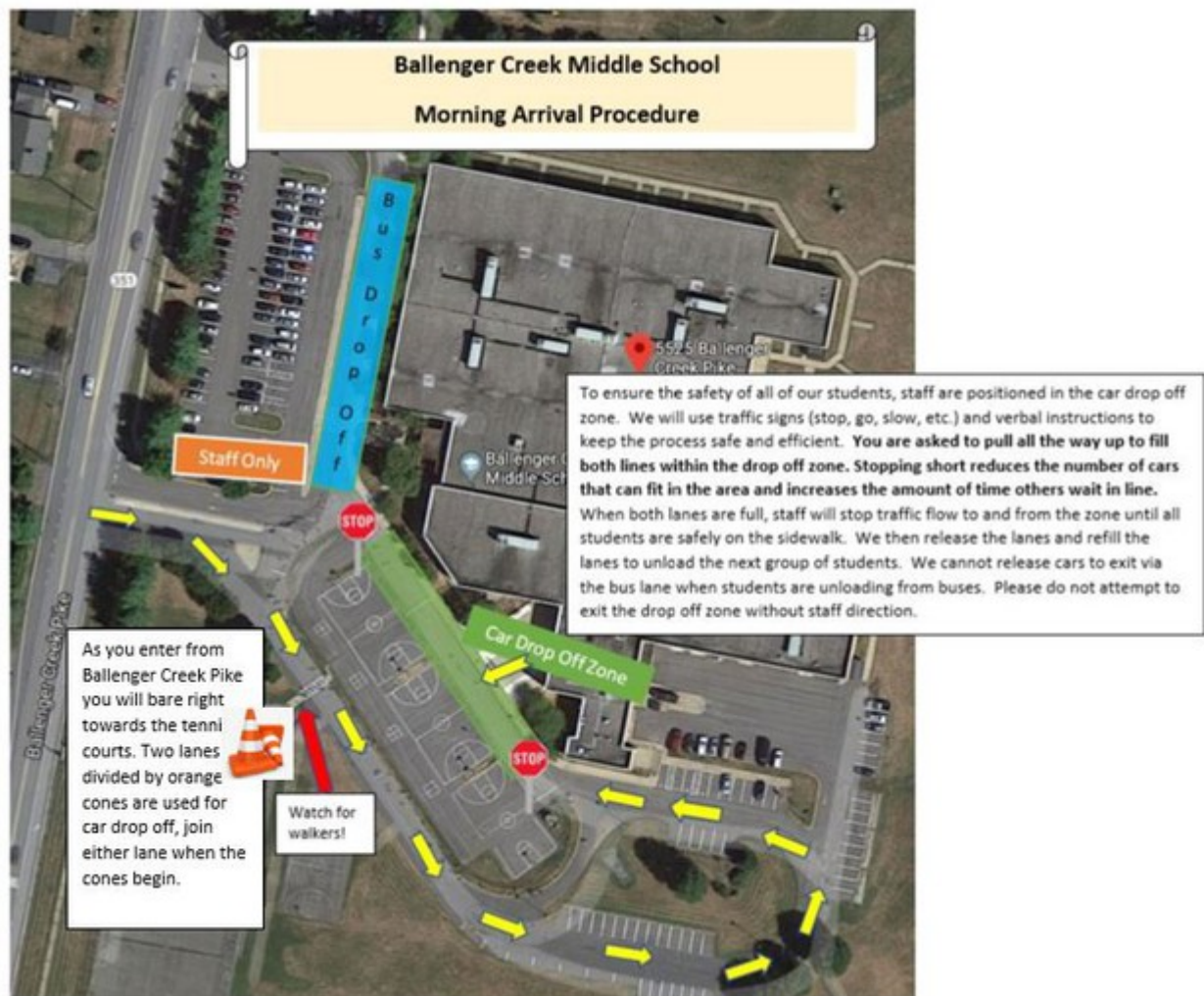
Chromebook – All grade levels

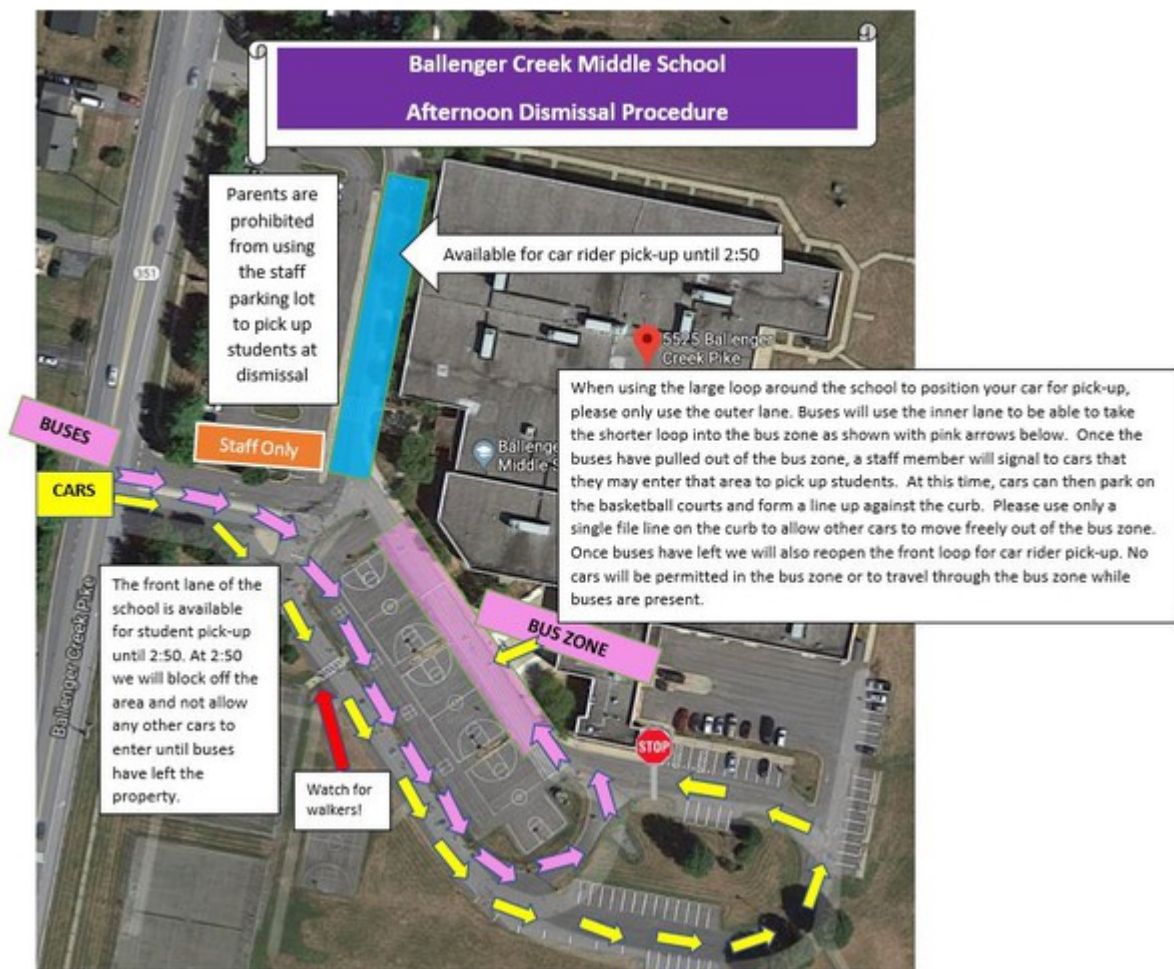
Please remind your student to charge their Chromebook at night! BYOD students should consistently bring their charger to school in case they need to charge. If your student is noticing any charging or other issues with their school-issued Chromebook, they should visit the media center (with teacher permission and a hall pass) to complete a tech services request.



Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Our morning arrival procedures will remain the same as last year but our afternoon procedures have changed. This year we will dismiss all students at 3:00 p.m. Please access the link below to view details and maps of the morning and afternoon procedures.





Welcome to the BCMS Counseling Office

8th grade counselor – Rebecca Reese rebecca.reese@fcps.org 240-236-5712

7th grade counselor – Johnny Webber johnny.webber@fcps.org 240-236-5713

6th grade counselor – David Ledyard david.ledyard@fcps.org 240-236-5711

Registrar – Lotoya Gee lotoya.gee@fcps.org 240-236-5710

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH | 6:30 PM

GOVERNOR THOMAS JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL | MEDIA CENTER



PROUDLY HOSTED AT GOVERNOR THOMAS JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL, THE PATRIOT NJROTC PROGRAM IS OPEN TO **ALL** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FREDERICK COUNTY.



Attendance and Online Grades

Attendance

Good attendance leads to success and boosts graduation. Our school goal is 96%.

Please remember to alert the front office (BallengerCreek.MS@fcps.org) if your child is sick and to send a letter when the child returns. **Our goal is to have all students in school and on time.**

Attendance Totals for Jan. 2 to Jan. 31

Grade 6--- 93.26%

Grade 7--- 94.49%

Grade 8--- 94.54%

Grades- Schoology and HAC

Ballenger Creek Middle encourages parents to please check daily grades only on Schoology. The Home Access Center (HAC) updates overnight, so in the afternoon there may be different grades on each system. Please utilize HAC for midterm and term grades only.

Below you will find instructions on how to create, log into, and use your Schoology account. Please note that each child has a unique parent access code provided on your Parent Access Letter (PAL) letter.

Sign Up as a Parent- <http://bit.ly/signupparent>

REGISTRASE COMO PADRES- <http://bit.ly/registrasepadres>

Don't forget to download the Schoology App on your mobile device.

Please also note that the Schoology Parent Access Code is also located on the registration tab within the Home Access Center (HAC).

Still having difficulty accessing HAC? Please contact our counseling office at 240-236-5710 for additional help.

Community Liaison Corner

Hello Families!

Our next family involvement event, taking place in March, will focus on Social Media Safety and Drug Awareness. Watch for more information coming soon.

Did you earn \$56,000 or less in 2019? If so, Free Tax Preparation is available with IRS certified volunteers beginning February 4, 2020 at the Bernard Brown Community Center. Call 866-411-6803 or 211 to schedule an appointment. If you are not a US citizen, you may still access this free service with your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The Bernard Brown Center is located in Frederick at 629 N. Market St.

Drs. Levy, Somerville, Patel and Bhushan are again opening their doors to provide free dental care to children of need, ages 6 months to 18 years. Please call, 301-663-8300, to set an appointment for Friday, February 7, 2020. Appointments are available from 8:00am until 4pm. You must have an appointment to be seen. Their office is located at 198 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 108.

It is not too late to join the PTSA! Joining is one of the easiest ways you can help BCMS. For membership, please use the link provided, complete the form and submit the \$10 fee. That easily, you have helped and there is no further commitment! Please contact Tracy McElroy at

tamcelroy@comcast.net with any questions or for more information on the PTSA. Link to join: <https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/Frederick/GetFile.aspx?DocId=11658contact>

Ms. Moss

Community Liaison

240-236-5773

dottie.moss@fcps.org

Grade Level News and Updates

Grade 6 News

We are half-way through the school year! Please check in with your student and make sure that they have enough supplies for the remainder of the year. We are having an increase in students who do not have lined paper or pencils!

While we can provide pencils in the classroom, we are finding an increased number of pencils broken without ever being sharpened. Please help us in reminding students to be respectful of all property, including their own and school property!

Any donation of tissue boxes for classrooms would be greatly appreciated! If you are willing to donate, you can send your student in with tissues for their homebase teacher, or tissues can be dropped off to Mrs. Rose Branzell, 6th grade team leader, for distribution to all 6th grade teachers.

Grade 8 News

8th grade spotlights **Mrs. Utz** our ELA teacher

Mrs. Utz: I've been teaching 8th grade Language Arts at Ballenger Creek Middle School for 8 years. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary English Education from York College of Pennsylvania. Later, I earned my Master of Science degree in Reading Specialization from Hood College. I am certified to teach English in grades 7-12, and I am also certified to be a reading specialist from kindergarten all the way up to the collegiate level. Furthermore, I am originally from York, Pennsylvania, and moved to Frederick county about seven years ago. I currently live with my husband and golden retriever, Ellie. I love all things reading and writing, but have a fondness for science and nature as well. I also love watching movies; my favorite is The Goonies.-- "Hey you guys!"

Hints for students:

- Charge chrome books every night
- Check schoology for grades and missing work

- Come to classes prepared with supplies and materials
- Sign up for tutoring to complete missing work for term 2

Hints for Parents

- Check with your child their grades and missing assignments on schoology
- Limit time on devices prior to bedtime
- Have students complete missing work for term 2.

News from The Art Department

The Art Department is pleased to announce that some of our students are taking part in some local art competitions & two of them have moved onto the state level of competition. Seventh grader Gabbie Collado, and eighth grader Celia Tchouaffe entered the Women's Civic Club competition and eighth grader Trina Cheng the Reflections competition. Both eighth grade girls were winners and will get to move onto compete at the state level. We congratulate them all for taking part.

Ms. Cuseo-Fields & Ms. Pennington

BCMS Events

From the World of Music

The Music Department would like to congratulate to the All County participants from BCMS. These students auditioned to earn a spot to perform with the best of the best middle school musicians in the county.

A great Bulldog cheer to

6TH Graders Isla Alo and Sierra Grissez

7th Graders William Anspach, Sophia Carliss, and Kristen Foundas

8th Graders Teah Doan, Ashley Frahm, and Arwen Ki

Their performance is February 8th at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School at 4pm. Tickets are sold at the door for \$5.00. Enjoy the show!

Yearbooks

Yearbook presale order have started. Pamphlets are coming home next week with students. Please see the Find Out First sent this week for the sale link.

Ballenger Creek Middle School

Yearbook Pre-Sale

When?: January 28th- April 17th

How?: Click on the banner to order your yearbooks today! All money will be collected through Lifetouch

Why?: Capture the memories of your middle school year with a yearbook.

Sweetheart Dance

On behalf of the PBIS team, we are offering a Sweetheart Dance on February 21, 2020. The dance will be from 3 PM to 5PM. Cost is \$5.00 for admissions. Ticket Sales with a signed permission slip will start Monday, February 10th. See the BCMS Schoology group for the permission slip or pick one up in the cafeteria during your lunch shifts. Concessions will be sold for \$1.00. All proceeds will go to the BCMS PBIS to fund future dances.

Note: NO TICKETS OR PERMISSION SLIPS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 18TH.

Math Department Highlights

Here is what's happening in math classes at BCMS:

6th Grade: Starting Unit 5 (Using Algebraic Relationships) Solving Equations and/or Inequalities.

7th Grade: 7CC -Finishing up with Unit 5 (Algebraic Expressions). The unit 5 test is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th. Starting Unit 6 on Equations next week. Benchmark will be after Unit 6 and covers material from units 4-6.

7ACC- Working in Unit 6 for the next two weeks (linear equations with two variables, slope & graphing). Unit 6 test is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th. Unit 7 will be on solving Systems of Linear Equations. Benchmark 2 will be after Unit 7 and covers material from Units 4-7.

8th Grade: Finishing up Unit 4 (Solving Linear Equations), starting Unit 5 (Systems of Equations). Benchmark after Unit 5.

Mathcounts: Chapter competition this Saturday, February 8th. The outcome of this competition determines whether or not BCMS moves onto the State competition

Enrichment News & Resources

Enrichment News & Resources It is time to start thinking about the FCPS Science and Engineering Fair. This year's fair will be held at Tuscarora High School on March 17 & 18. For general information, please visit the Science Fair website or talk to your science teacher. Moving beyond, "How was your day?" Helping your gifted child succeed Parent involvement is as important during the middle school years as it was in elementary school. The most important way to be involved is to emphasize the importance of education and take an Keeping You Informed Inclement Weather? Here is how to Check School Status: **English:** <https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/Frederick/GetFile.aspx?DocId=5581> **Spanish:** <https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/Frederick/GetFile.aspx?DocId=7817> Chromebook – All grade levels Please remind your student to charge their Chromebook at night! BYOD students should consistently bring their charger to school in case they need to charge. If your student is noticing any charging or other issues with their school-issued Chromebook, they should visit the media center (with teacher permission and a hall pass) to complete a tech services request. active interest in what your child is doing in school. To succeed in school, your child needs your support. Tips for Success: • Encourage your child to challenge him or herself by working up to his or her ability in all classes. • Recognize study habits as an important part of academic achievement. Your child will need to learn to organize his/ her materials, and write down and complete homework assignments independently • Encourage your child to take advantage of opportunities to explore interests. Well-rounded students are the happiest students. Borrowed from the 2019-2020 FCPS Middle School Course Guide

Middle School Shadow Day

The **FCPS Academy for the Fine Arts (AFA)**

hosts

Middle School Shadow Day

Wednesday April 15

8-10 AM

Gov. Thomas Johnson High School

Students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to:

*Visit the AFA

*Take a tour

*Learn about the 4 focus areas
music, dance, visual art, and theatre

Students will:

Participate in hands-on activities

Learn what the AFA is and

Learn how the AFA can fit into a 4-year plan for high school

Transportation to and from this event is NOT provided.

To register, please visit: <https://www.fcpsartsacademy.org/visit-the-afa.html>

