

BCMS News You Can Use

March 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 term three! While spring is just around the corner, first and foremost in our minds are your children's health and safety. Though as I write this there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Maryland, flu, cold, and intestinal viruses are still very prevalent in our area. Our custodians have been diligently sanitizing desks and other surfaces of the school to ensure transmission of germs is less likely. Thanks in advance for helping us in these efforts by keeping your students home if they are ill until they have been fever-free (or have not vomited) for 24 hours.

On another topic, I want to share with you that we reminded students on the announcements this week that phones, headphones, earbuds, and airpods are not permitted to be used between 7:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in school. While these items can be carried, they should be away and out of sight during the school day. This is the same policy that is becoming widely used in many other Frederick County middle schools. The purpose for this guideline is for safety (students with headphones can't hear directions) and increased student focus, as well as decreasing the amount of drama throughout the school day that messaging and social media bring, which is disruptive to everyone. We appreciate your help with reiterating the importance of this school guideline.

As always, please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you and your students to make sure that they're successful—we're grateful for the opportunity to partner with you!

Take care,

Jay Schill

Principal



Maryland Officials Warn Parents of Latest Social Media Video "Challenge"

Maryland Officials Warn Parents of Latest Social Media Video "Challenge"

The Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) would like to warn parents of a recent social media video challenge called the "Skull Breaker Challenge." Serious head injuries have resulted.

The "challenge" has been disseminated on the app TikTok. In the "challenge" a student is asked to jump, and then another person kicks the legs out from underneath jumper, who falls to the ground. This behavior is very dangerous and can lead to serious injury. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals are first on the scene to see these preventable injuries. Officials from MIEMSS say they can range from broken bones to devastating head injuries. Unfortunately, head injuries can have life-altering, permanent disabling consequences.

Parents are encouraged to speak with their children about the dangers of this and other social media challenges that can seriously harm their child and to have a discussion on safe social media use at school and at home.

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.

Calendar Reminders

Wed. Mar. 4-----Mid-Term 2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
Tue. Mar. 10 -----Spring Pictures
Tue. Mar. 24----- Parents: Phone & Social Media Safety Awareness
Night 6:30p.m. –8:00 pm
Tue. Mar. 24 &
Thu. Mar. 26-----MISA Testing - 8th grade
Fri. Apr. 3-----PTSA Sponsored **BINGO** 6:30 to 8 pm in cafeteria

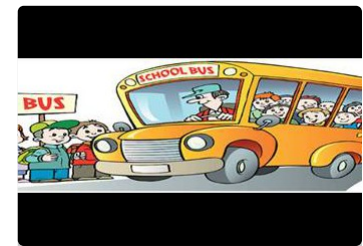
Families needing a sign language interpreter should contact Mrs. Gee at 240-236-5710 at least 10 days prior to the event.



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/>



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.



Spring Picture Day is Coming!

Picture Day is:
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Picture Day ID:
MJ729173Q0

Order today on
mylifetouch.com



Lifetouch



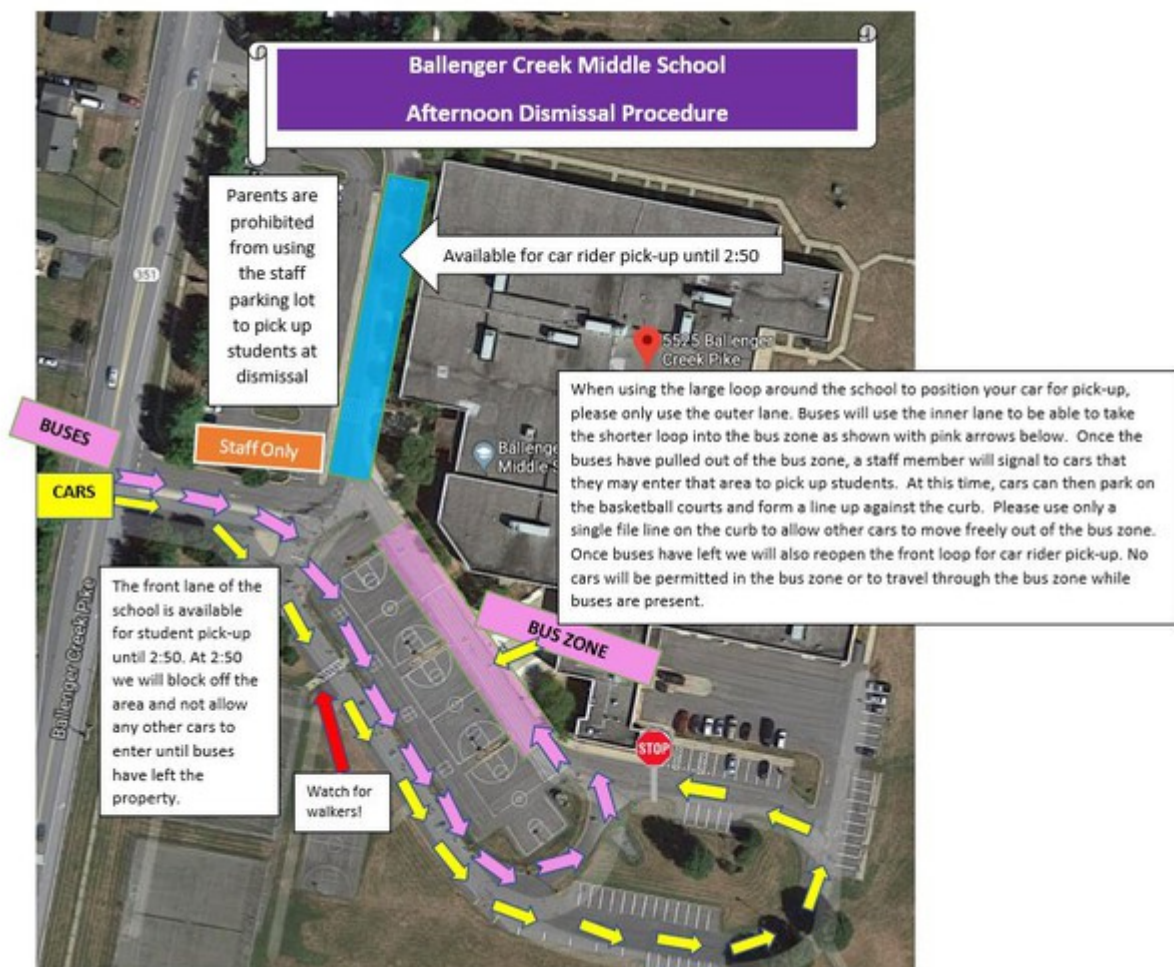
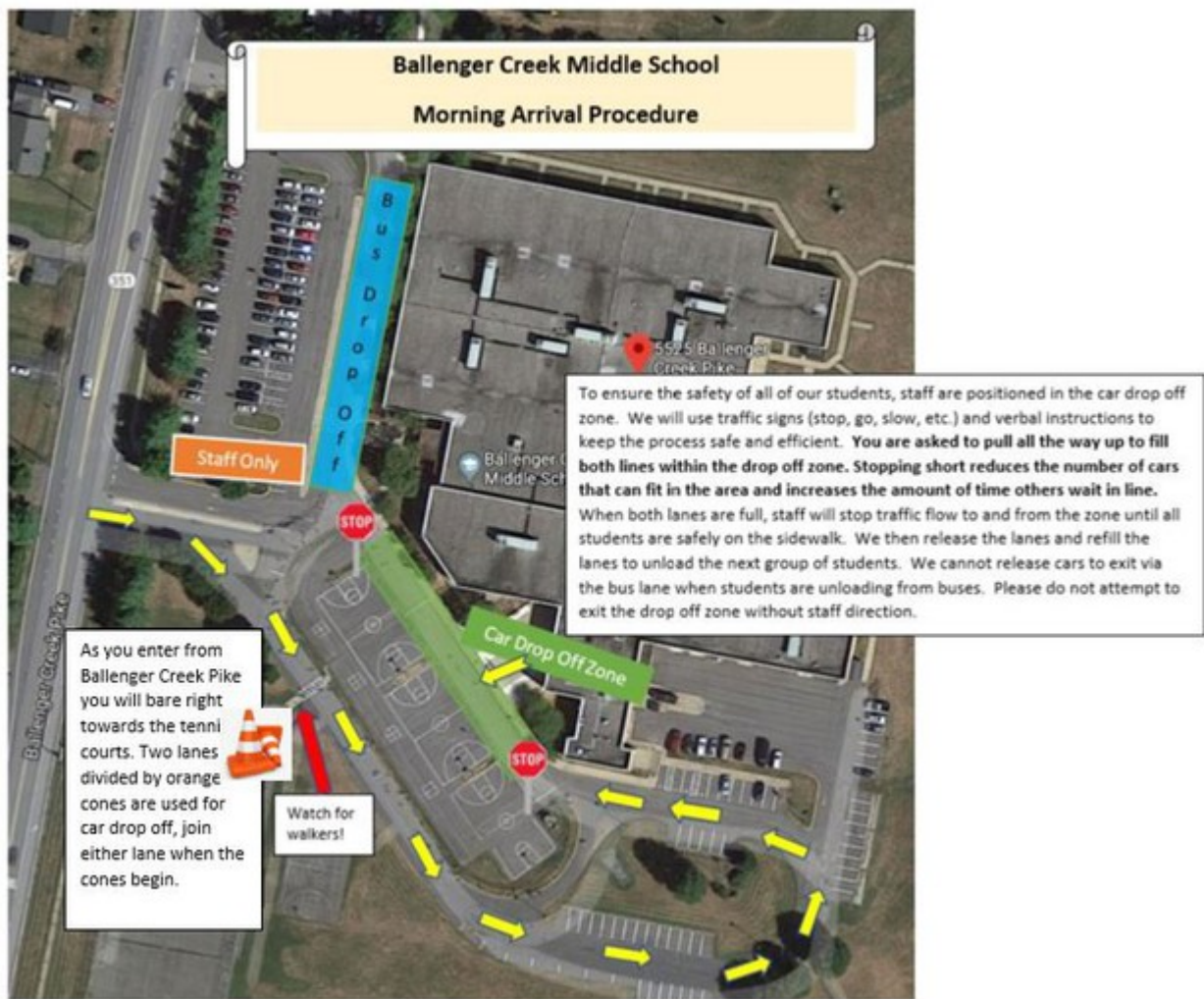
Spring Pictures Full Color Flyer - MJ729173Q0.pdf



Download
4.2 MB

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

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 Feb. 3 to Feb.28

Grade 6--- 94.46%

Grade 7--- 94.50%

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.

Parents: Phone & Social Media Safety Awareness Night

Parents: Phone & Social Media Safety Awareness Night Tuesday, March 24, 2020 6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.
Corporal Marc Linehan, a Frederick County Sheriff Deputy, will be our guest speaker Focus will be on new sites, new language, new laws and protective measures

Community Liaison Corner

Hello Families!

Parents, mark your calendar and plan to join us Tuesday, March 24th for our Phone & Social Media Safety Awareness Night. Corporal Marc Linehan, a Frederick County Sheriff's Deputy, will be our guest speaker. This event is one not to miss as he updates us on new sites, new language, new laws and protective measures. The program will run from 6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m.

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 Hello Families! Parents, mark your calendar and plan to join us Tuesday, March 24th for our Phone & Social Media Safety Awareness Night. Corporal Marc Linehan, a Frederick County Sheriff's Deputy, will be our guest speaker. This event is one not to miss as he updates us on new sites, new language, new laws and protective measures. The program will run from 6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m.

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Ms. Moss

Community Liaison

240-236-5773

dottie.moss@fcps.org

Grade Level News and Updates

Grade 6 News

Hello parents and guardians of 6th grade students,

We are preparing for two upcoming field trips! The first will be Outdoor School, which is part of the 6th grade science curriculum. The second is STEM Day at Nymeo Field to see a Key's Baseball game and learn more about STEM careers. Details about each field trip is below.

If you are interested in chaperoning one of these field trips, please complete this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/umDSxg3XAE6rWKPX6>

Outdoor School

- Free for chaperones
- Each science class will attend for two days. You will only be responsible for chaperoning one set of days depending on your student's science teacher! Approximate time commitment: 7:30 am-3:15 pm.
 - o Mr. Merson periods 1, 2, and 3: May 27-28
 - o Mr. Merson periods 4 and 5 and Mrs. Roos periods 1 and 2: May 29-June 1
 - o Mrs. Roos periods 3, 4, and 5 June 2-3

STEM Day at Nymeo Field

- Chaperone cost is \$7
- All students in the 6th grade will attend on the same day, June 4th from 9:30 am-2:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Rose Branzell, the 6th grade team leader, at rose.branzell@fcps.org.

Grade 7 News

The 7th Grade would like to announce the start of sign-ups for their 4th Annual 7th Grade Career Day, which will be held on Friday, April 24th, 2020. In past years, 7th grade parents and other working professionals have come into our classrooms to present to the students about their chosen career. This year, if any parents would be interested in sharing their career with students, we would greatly appreciate any volunteers. Later this week, Mr. Schaller and Mrs. Montgomery will be sending out emails containing a google form sign-up link. Our students in the past have enjoyed learning about the many educational paths and careers as well as participating in activities that give them a glimpse into a day of a working professional. There are opportunities for full or half-day presentations.

Grade 8 News

8th grade spotlights Intervention Teacher, Mrs. Shaffer

Mrs. Shaffer: Mrs. Katherine Shaffer grew up in Columbia, Maryland. She has wanted to be a teacher since she was seven. Mrs. Shaffer started her career teaching Language Arts in Newport News, Virginia. She then moved back to Maryland, and spent twelve years teaching Language Arts at Middletown Middle School. For the past three years, Mrs. Shaffer has been teaching Reading/Writing Workshop at Ballenger Creek. When Mrs. Shaffer is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling, hiking, and reading.

Math Department: Math is finishing up Unit 5 - Solving Systems of Equations. Our benchmark is on March 5th; it covers Units 4 and 5. We will be starting Unit 6 - Geometry: Transformations after all students complete the benchmark exam.

Dates to Remember:

3/4 Midterm

3/4 two-hour early leave

Hints for students:

- Set a purpose for each day
- 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 3

Hints for Parents

- Check with your child their grades and missing assignments on schoology
- Connect what they learn in school to things in their environment
- Limit time on devices
- Have students complete missing work for term 3.

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 link to order your yearbooks today! All money will be collected through Lifetouch

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

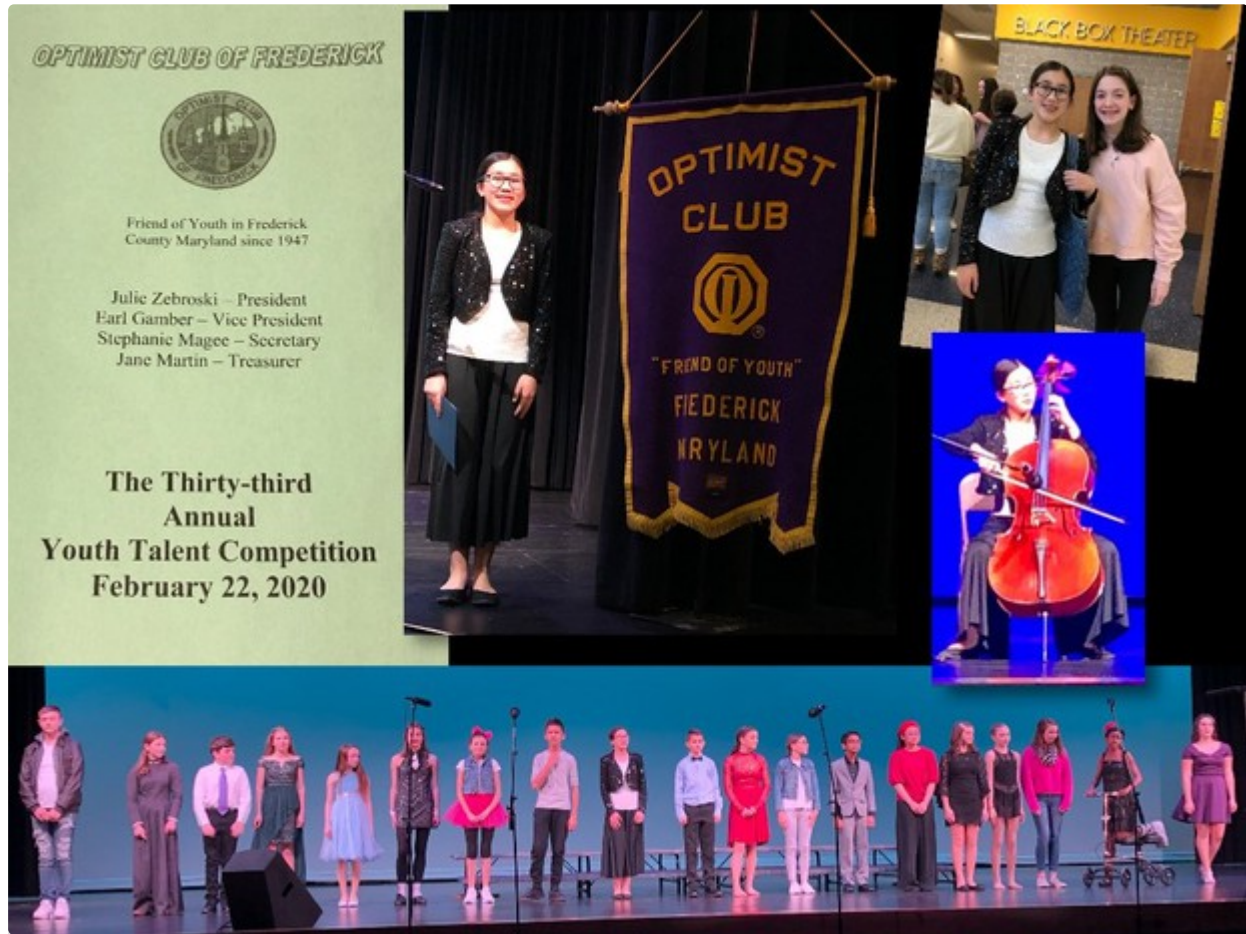
<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectStudent?isAdvertisementOnly=False&jobnumber=4846920>

Sweetheart Dance

On behalf of the PBIS team, we would like to thank all the parent donations, chaperones, and staff support for the Sweetheart Dance. We were able to raise money for PBIS events at the end of the year as the students showed off their dance moves. Be on the look out for more PBIS events to celebrate the year.

From the World of Music

The Music Department would like to congratulate to Teah Doan, Cellist and Emma Gadbois Thespian for their performance at the Optimist Club Performing Arts Competition. Both students were finalist for their division and won scholarship money for their performances. Speaking of finalist, we want to shout to the roof tops that Teah Doan has once again proved her talents at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. With a Superior Rating of a perfect score, she will advance to the Stat level to compete as a cello soloist. This is the second year Teah has won this category. Remember her name as she will go far!



BCMS IS STEAM

On February 24th, Cameron Lee and Abby Zimmerman took 3rd place in the food cooking competition for BCMS. This competition is a yearly event at the Career and Technology Center and is held between all middle schools in the county. Please join me in congratulating them on their win!

Cameron and Abby were among the 14 Ballenger Creek Tech Education student to compete in various competitions including STEM projects. Bringing home win in culinary, engineering, and mechanic, our Bulldogs LEAD the way.

Mr. Williams, Mrs. Highfill, Ms. Massey, and Mrs. Robinson are very proud of you all.

Staying HEART Healthy

We have been busy this month of February in the Physical Education Department. This year, the Washington Capitals partnered with several county school systems near Washington D.C. for a Youth Education of Hockey program. We would like to thank the Capitals for new hockey equipment and Zach Arden, Washington Capitals Youth Hockey Development for coming out to teach the students the basics of hockey.

We would also like to thank the community members below and more for showing our eighth grade students ways to stay healthy after middle school. The students seemed to enjoy the challenge and talked for a few days about ways they want to improve their lives.

Jasmine Williams- Planet Fitness

Tara Suite- Golds Gym

Minase Shiferaw and Nate Wratford- Anytime Fitness

Andrew and Chase and Rebecca Dean- Soldier fit

Phoebe Page-Luna Yoga

Jennifer Havens and Gabrielle Phillips and Heather O'Neill- Yoga instructors

Ricardo- Frederick Volleyball Club

Chris Babb and Tuscarora Girls track team- THS Track and Field and Cross Country Coach

Racquel Harris- Cheerleading Coach

Stephanie Almeida and Coach Worell- Tuscarora Tennis team coaches

and the Tuscarora Tennis Barn coach

Jenna Riscigno- 24/7 Dance Company

Jason McDonald (BCMS parent)- Self defense and Jujitsu

Harry Coates- Tuscarora Wrestling Coach



Staying



Heart



Healthy

Language Arts Department

In Language Arts classes, students just finished taking a Literary Performance Writing Assessment. These scores will be added to the gradebook. Please contact your student's LA teacher if you have any questions!

All students will be taking the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) test this Spring. To better prepare for this test, students are encouraged to go online and take practice tests:

<https://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/english/>

Students in Mrs. Shaffer's Reading/Writing Workshop classes have started the final READ 180 unit of the year! In sixth grade, students are delving into *Water Fight*, exploring the focus question: How do we prevent Earth's freshwater supply from drying up? 7th and 8th graders have started *The Hunt for Lincoln's Killer*. We will read multiple texts that explore the focus question: How does a country respond to the death of a leader?

Math Department Updates

Upcoming Benchmarks in Math Classes:

8th Grade Benchmark 2 (Units 4-5) window for testing will be during the weeks of 3/4 to 3/11. The specific date(s) will be announced by your child's math teacher in class.

7th Accelerated Benchmark 2 (Units 4 to 7) is scheduled for Monday, March 9th and Tuesday, March 10th.

7th Grade Benchmark 2 (Units 4-6) is scheduled for Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th.

6th Grade Benchmark 2 (Units 4-5) window for testing will be during the weeks of 3/9 to 3/19. The specific date(s) will be announced by your child's math teacher in class.

Science Department News

Students learn science by acquiring knowledge and constructing explanations of natural phenomena. Then they test those explanations and communicate their findings both in oral and written forms. Through this process, students develop a deep understanding of science that combines knowledge and facts with reasoning and critical thinking.

At every grade in middle school, students will complete four units of scientific study. For a detailed description of the entire middle school science curriculum, visit the FCPS Secondary Science site: http://education.fcps.org/sciencesec/ec_middle. Below are content updates from all three grade levels.

Grade 6

Sixth grade students are finishing up the Balanced Body unit with the nervous system. Students are learning the different types of sensory receptors and the types of inputs to which they respond (e.g., electromagnetic, mechanical, chemical stimuli) and the way that sensory information is transmitted along nerve cells from receptors to the brain.

Background Information:

The nervous system receives information about what is happening both inside and outside your body. It also directs the way in which your body responds to this information. Your nervous system can take an immediate action or store the information as a memory.

The three main structures in the nervous system are the **nerves**, **spinal cord**, and **brain**. The nerves receive a signal or stimulus from the environment. Nerves are found all over your body and can sense many different types of stimuli. For example, the nerves in your skin can sense pressure and temperature, while nerves in your tongue respond to chemical stimuli. Some of your nerves even respond to electrical stimuli! Once an impulse is sensed it is then transferred to the spinal cord, the spinal cord takes the message to the brain. In the brain the message is interpreted and response is selected. For example when your body needs fluids you get thirsty. This response is carried down the spinal cord to the body so that you can respond to the stimulus, and take a drink of water. The time it takes the stimulus/reaction to make this trip is known as reaction time.

Key vocabulary and concepts:

Nerves - Connects to your spinal cord to deliver messages to your brain

Spinal Cord - Connects your nerves to your brain

Brain - Processes messages sent from spinal cord for response

Adrenaline - Chemical that is produced when under stress

Pain - Unpleasant feeling in your tissue

Making connections in nerves - Why we get better at reactions the more they happen

Seeing, Feeling, Hearing, Touching, Tastings - Ways we get information to our brain

Chunking - Combining info to help you remember easier

Long Term Memory - Can last FOREVER

Short Term Memory - Lasts only 15-30 seconds

Nervous - System that process messages to your brain and back to your nerves

Hippocampus - Stores memories and emotions

For a full description of this NGSS standard go to:

https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/evidence_statement/black_white/MS-LS1-8%20Evidence%20Statements%20June%202015%20asterisks.pdf

Outdoor School Dates for Sixth Grade Science Students*

- *May 27-28* Mr. Merson: periods 1, 2, & 3
- *May 29-June 1* Mr. Merson: periods 4, 5 & Mrs. Roos: periods 1 & 2
- *June 2-3* Mrs. Roos: periods 3, 4, & 5

*More information will be sent home with students in March.

Grade 7

Seventh grade students have moved into Earth's Processes. Students are working with the rock cycle, have conducted a sinkhole experiment, and are working in the Jason Project to address the following core idea:

- All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among the planet's systems. This energy is derived from the sun and Earth's hot interior. The energy that flows and matter that cycles produce chemical and physical changes in Earth's materials and living organisms.

For a full description of this NGSS standard go to:

https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/evidence_statement/black_white/MS-ESS2-1%20Evidence%20Statements%20June%202015%20asterisks.pdf

Grade 8

Eighth grade students have started their work in the Motions unit with Newton's laws of motion. Students have carried out several labs to reinforce these concepts.

Below are two important core ideas for these standards:

- The motion of an object is determined by the sum of the forces acting on it; if the total force on the object is not zero, its motion will change. The greater the mass of the object, the greater the force needed to achieve the same change in motion. For any given object, a larger force causes a larger change in motion.
- For any pair of interacting objects, the force exerted by the first object on the second object is equal in strength to the force that the second object exerts on the first, but in the opposite direction (Newton's third law).

For a full description of these NGSS standards go to:

https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/evidence_statement/black_white/MS-PS2-1%20Evidence%20Statements%20June%202015%20asterisks.pdf

and

https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/evidence_statement/black_white/MS-PS2-2%20Evidence%20Statements%20June%202015%20asterisks.pdf

Enrichment News & Resources

Summer Opportunities

Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) Summer STEM program. The GEMS program at Fort Detrick brings local students into the cutting-edge world of U.S. Army Research and Development with amazing hands-on experiences.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2020

Apply at <https://www.usaeop.com/program/frederick/>

If interested, please see the flyer at:

<https://fcps.ezcommunicator.net/edu/frederick/upload/82/12770.pdf>

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>