Happy New Year!

I hope you and your family enjoyed the winter break. We are already focused on improving student performance. Today, all students learned how to write a SMART goal in their science classes. We believe it was important to revisit interim grades today (they were posted electronically in late December). Parent conferences can be arranged by contacting teachers directly via email or Schoology. **Conference afternoon is next Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30** however you can arrange mutually agreeable times/dates with the teacher.

MATH Parent Information Night is at 7PM next Wednesday, January 8th.
We began our basketball season prior to winter break and it continues this month. Below are the dates of our upcoming games. There is an admission price for students ($2) and adults ($4). Please join us to cheer for our team!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/7 - Tuesday</td>
<td>Dundalk @ Dumbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9 - Thursday</td>
<td>Middle River @ Dumbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23 - Thursday</td>
<td>Holabird @ Dumbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/30 - Thursday</td>
<td>Parkville @ Dumbarton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Winter Concerts which take place later this month.

Concerts begin at 7PM
8th Grade Winter Concert: 1/13
6th Grade Winter Concert: 1/22
7th Grade Winter Concert: 1/27

Thank you for all you do so send us such great students who are motivated to achieve at a high level. We are proud of their progress and know that it will continue through the year.

Sincerely,

Susan Harris
Principal

Our P.R.I.D.E. is Our Future
Perseverance, Respect, Intellectual Growth, Diligence, Empathy
If you would like to receive automated email alerts to more easily access grade reports, please follow the instructions listed below. Earlier in the week is the best time to check grades since grading is often done on the weekends. Teachers update grades at least every two weeks. As you can imagine, each subject area is different in which assignments are graded.
Absences from School for Vacations

There are occasions when families take a vacation during the school year. Helping children keep up with school work they will miss is a challenge for parents and teachers alike. While teachers plan according to a long-range scope, planning for daily instruction is an on-going process that requires frequent adjustments due to daily assessment of student needs. Therefore, instruction and learning what was planned is at times rearranged or revisited. Please keep in mind that there is a great deal of learning that takes place in the classroom through discussion and other activities that cannot be made up in the form of a worksheet or textbook pages. If your child misses school because of vacation, your child may collect work missed upon returning to school. Also, please keep in mind that an absence for a vacation is considered unexcused even if there are educational components to the trip.

*Attendance Reminder: Please send in a note to your child’s homeroom teacher the day your child returns from an absence. **

8th Grade School Counseling Update

Private High School Records and Referral Requests

8th Grade Parents,
To ensure a timely delivery of your student’s transcript and teacher referrals by the January deadlines, please send in your requests for student records as soon as possible. All requests that are turned in after December 14th cannot be guaranteed to be sent out by January 15th. Requests are initiated when parents provide a permission to release information form from each private school or the Baltimore County Public Schools Consent for Release of Student Records form to Ms. Billington in the DMS School Counseling Office. Common Referral Forms for teachers should be turned in at that time as well. The referral form is sent with your student’s academic transcript so that the private school receives one complete packet of information.
Classroom Guidance Focus for January
In the new year, our 8th graders will participate in a classroom guidance lesson to address stress and anxiety. Students will identify ways they can reduce stress by developing healthy mental, social/emotional and physical coping strategies. Specifically, students will work on self-management and creating relationships with adults that support success.
Erin Murphy, 8th Grade Counselor

ELA 8
Students in 8th grade English language arts are studying how an author creates suspense and humor in a narrative and will use this knowledge to create engaging writing of their own.

Science 8
The students are now in unit 2, Mastodons and Megalodons. In this unit the students will begin considering what types of organisms live in Maryland currently and whether they have always lived in this region. This question will drive the study of prehistoric Maryland species and determine how they may be related to the organisms that currently live here. Students will work to determine how the fossil evidence supports the idea that fossilized organisms are related to modern day organisms. They will learn about the formation of fossils, and how patterns in the rock strata can be used to determine the relative age of fossils in order to reconstruct geologic time and the natural history.

American History
American History classes are moving beyond how we became independent from Great Britain and are learning about the foundations of this very nation. The topics in this unit are vital for becoming an active, responsible citizen and will serve students will in their 9th grade American Government course. In addition, students will learn the issues our first presidents faced and how they shaped the nation as a result. Students should be working on either their classroom presentation projects or their National History Day projects, depending on their teacher. The next unit exam will fall sometime around the end of the quarter, so it’s important students power through the rest of this unit with success so they can finish the quarter strong or start the next one on a positive note.

Math
Geometry has just entered the world of 2-dimensional figures. We are starting to discover the properties of triangles through experimentation and inductive reasoning. We are also continuing to build on our ability to write and prove conjectures.
8th Math: Learning about Functions and reviewing for the Unit 2 County Assessment.
Algebra: Students are collecting data on wheat grass growth in order to calculate and analyze linear regression.
8th Grade P.R.I.D.E Students

The following students were recognized for demonstrating the D in Pride.

**Diligence:** Careful, persistent work or effort.

Oliver H.  
Aziz B.  
Julia S.  
Olivia B.  
Hope F.  
Mitchell C.  
Madison M.  
Eve B.  
Nick D.  
Xinyu C.  

Lily I.  
Christina K.  
Maddy S.  
Ridda Z.  
Laura R.  
Carter D.  
Rose D.  
William T.  
Damirah J.  
Julian C.

Janice Millard, 8th Grade Level Coordinator jmillard@bcps.org

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7th Grade Counselor Corner

**New School Counselor**

My name is Jenni Stump and I will be the seventh grade school counselor while Mrs. Robinson is out on maternity leave.

**Executive Functioning Lesson**

During the month of January, 7th grade students will learn about Executive Functioning Skills to promote school success. Students will take a short self-assessment to identify their strongest and weakest executive functioning skills. They will also choose a weakness and create a plan to improve that skill. Ask your student about how they will work to improve their executive function!
6 Year Planning is Underway

Students began meeting with Mrs. Robinson and our counseling intern to complete their 6 Year Plans during the month of October. The individual meetings will continue with Ms. Stump. It will likely take through June to complete these individual student meetings. If your student has completed their planning session, ask them to tell you how many Service Learning Hours they need for high school graduation and where to find information about high school magnet programs. If they have not met with Mrs. Robinson or the counseling intern to date, feel free to begin exploring high school magnet options here.

8th Grade Registration!

In December, 7th graders were given course registration forms in their Language Arts classes. These forms should be carefully reviewed and signed by a parent. If you or your student has not received an 8th grade registration form, please contact Ms. Stump.

jstump2@bcps.org
443-809-6923

7th Grade News

**Science**
Grade 7 is working on Unit 2 ‘Form Follows Function’. We will look at the theory of the cell. How the cells look under the microscopes. The form of the cell and its organelles, and how the cells group to form tissue, organs and organ systems. We will look at how they work together and how the structures affect the function. When students return from winter break, they will focus on the human body and its various systems and organs. Students will then build models to demonstrate how organ systems work together within the body to perform a specific task.

**Math**
Pre-Algebra: Students will compare expressions and equations. Students will learn to define both expressions and equations through their similarities and differences. Students will also work on solving one and two step equations.
Algebra I: Students will grow wheat grass and utilize the growth data for graphing and decide line of best fit/correlation for growth data to linear expressions.

**World Cultures**
Students in Grade 7 World Cultures will have the chance to participate in the National Geography Bee. In class, they will work on document-based questioning and analysis, utilizing primary and secondary sources in their work. To draw connections between European and
Japanese cultures, students will write a comparison of Knights and Samurai and create a poster to accompany their study. Students will also look at the causes and effects of the Bubonic Plague, and cover aspects of the Mongol Horde in China.

**ELA**

During the second half of the 2nd Quarter, students in Language Arts will be watching various film clips of the plays they read in order to compare the texts with the films and to also analyze the effectiveness of various cinematic techniques used in the films to determine how they create meaning. In the Academic classes, this comparison and analysis will be made using several different plays, and in Advanced Academics, students will use the play they are reading, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Students in both classes will demonstrate their understanding with these target standards by writing literary analysis essays for their PBAs.

**World Languages**

**French 7, Level B**

Students will learn to identify and explain the importance and benefits of eating well, and the dangers of not eating well. Additionally, students will identify typical meals in French-speaking countries. Students will compare and evaluate how healthy eating habits have changed over time, identify and explain excuses/challenges that prevent people from eating healthy, and identify strategies for overcoming excuses/challenges that impact healthy eating.

**Spanish 7, Level B**

**Theme 1: LET’S EAT BETTER! / ¡VAMOS A COMER MEJOR!**

Students will learn to express food preferences and eating habits; identify typical meals in Spanish-speaking countries; ask and answer questions about eating habits; identify the importance and benefits of eating well; identify the dangers of unhealthy eating habits and explore seasonal holiday celebrations around food.

**Latin 7, Level B**

**Theme 1: Hospitalitas / Hospitality**

Students will explore language to express when, where and how people celebrate around the world.

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**7th Grade P.R.I.D.E Students**

The following students were recognized for demonstrating the I in Pride.

**Intellectual Growth:** improvement in a person’s capacities for thinking, reasoning, relating, judging, and conceptualizing.

Maria P.  
Leo S.  
Noel M.  
Owen G.  
Nina J.  
Ariel D.  
Ava C.  
Pratik B.  
Colin K.

---

**7th Grade Contacts**

Ms. Cheryl Scott, Assistant Principal at cscott2@bcps.org

Ms. Natalie Zinkham, Grade Level Coordinator at nzinkham@bcps.org
From the 6th Grade Counselor

This month, I will continue to meet with students who earned less than 70% in academic courses during first quarter for academic planning. Students are encouraged to complete and submit all class work and homework (even if it is not graded). Students should also use their agendas daily to help stay organized and prepared for classes. Students should regularly check Schoology to assess their grades and performance. Students can collaborate and organize times to meet with their teachers for help sessions or coach class for additional assistance.

Please contact Dr. Martin in the School Counseling Office at any time.

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World History
6th graders are finishing the unit on Mesopotamia and Egypt. They will be having their unit test shortly after the return from winter break. Students will then be starting Unit 3 on Persia, India and Greece, Buddhism, Hinduism, the Peloponnesian War, and Alexander the Great. Students will be continuing to practice Claim, Evidence and Reasoning and they will be continuing their analysis skills with another Document Based Question (DBQ), this time on Alexander the Great.

Language Arts
In academic ELA, students are in the midst of reading Ghost where they are analyzing characterization, point of view, and figurative language. After Winter Break, students will begin their Performance Based Assessment wherein they will write a narrative involving Castle, the main character in Ghost and a chosen superhero. In GT ELA students are analyzing the hero’s journey and will soon begin their Performance Based Assessment where they will write a children’s fictional crossover using two characters from the myths they have read.

Math
Math 6 will continue this month with finding how is mathematics used to quantify and compare situations, events, and phenomena? What are the patterns in the information we collect, and how are they useful? What predictions can be made? The study of ratios and proportional relationships extends students’ work in measurement and in multiplication and division in the elementary grades. Ratios and proportional relationships are foundational for further study in
mathematics and science and useful in everyday life. In Unit 3, students will learn to represent ratios and rates symbolically, in tables, and in graphs. They will convert within and between measurement systems and convert among fractions, decimals, and percent. They will also learn to find a percent of a quantity and find the whole when given a percent and a part. And last, students will solve problems using unit rates, ratios, proportions, and percent. The goal is to assess Unit 3 near the end of January.

**Science**

6th graders will be working with different diverse chemical engineers to research and write about inventions to enhance their learning for their Shark Tank Experience/Culminating Event, on January 22. An Amazon representative, Under Armour representative, our principals and fellow teachers are all confirmed to be sharks as they support the 6th graders in this endeavor. The next unit will be Forces and Motion.

**Foreign Language**

In Latin students are learning how to describe their homes and compare their homes to the dwelling of Ancient Rome. They will also create their own ideal homes. French 6 is learning about food preparation and studying infographics related to nutrition and food production. Spanish students are learning about meals and customs in Latin America related to food and family traditions.

**Art**

Mr. Citrano’s classes and Mrs. Evans’ classes are finishing monochromatic landscape paintings with mixing tints and shades value and mixing techniques with paint. They will be starting the Kindness for Paws unit of study. Students will be creating artworks for the Maryland SPCA and entering their work into the SPCA Art Show. Students will earn Student Service hours for this project. In Mr. Jones’ classes and Mr. Krantz’s classes, students are currently working on a 3-dimensional paper strata unit exploring the illusion of depth and paper cutting/strata techniques.

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**Sixth Grade PRIDE Recipients**

This month, 6th grade teachers had the opportunity to recognize one student who demonstrated the “D” in P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Intellectual growth, Diligence, and Empathy). Diligence refers steady, earnest, and energetic effort. Kudos to the following students who have been recognized for their diligence.

Samantha C.        Jacques N.
Bennett C.          Caroline Q.
Emmerson C.         Madeleine S.
Terrazas C.         Avery S.
Hazel D.            Mateo S.
Mary K.             Caroline V.
                     Daniil Y.
Meet the DMS Writing Lab Tutors!

**Tuesdays:**
Hi, my name is Isabel and I'm a former DMS student! I'm a Writing Lab tutor and I attend Towson High School. I enjoy reading, writing and playing sports. My favorite book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. I'm here every Tuesday until 4:00 to help out. I look forward to helping you with your writing this year!

**Thursdays:**
Hi DMS students! My name is Ari and I'm a junior at Towson High School, where I'm currently Vice President of the National English Honor Society. This will be my third-year tutoring for the Writing Lab. I'll be happy to help you achieve any of your writing-related goals – whether you’re eager to improve your writing skills or you just want to boost your grade, I'm here every Thursday until 4:00, ready to help!

***
Hello DMS students, my name is Sophie and I'm an eleventh grader at Towson High School. I attended Dumbarton for middle school and have been tutoring at the Dumbarton Writing Lab for the past two years. I have a passion for anything relating to English and I love to help students succeed in their writing assignments. I also love to read in my free time. I am at the writing lab every Thursday until 4:00. I hope to see you at Writing Lab!
**Green School Tip of the Month**

Where and How to Recycle or Dispose of Christmas Trees in Maryland in after Christmas in 2019 and January 2020

In many urban and suburban areas, Christmas trees are collected from curbside during the first 2 weeks in January. Be sure to remove all lights, wire, tinsel, ornaments, nails, stands, other NON-Organic decorative materials and other materials that are not part of the original tree. This includes tree stands also. Flocked trees are usually accepted, but not artificial trees. Large trees (larger than the standard 6 - 7 ft tree) may need to be cut in half to be acceptable by your garbage hauler. But scroll down this page for more specific information and local links.

**What happens to the trees?** In most cases, the trees are chipped and made into a mulch which is usually made available, free to city or county residents. Important: Never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup and could cause a chimney fire.

**Tips:** Always follow the links (usually the name of the city or county) below for updated information, as these agencies often wait until the last minute to change dates or update their information (it’s government, remember?). If your area is not specifically mentioned below, contact your trash collection agency and inquire!

[http://www.pickyourownchristmastree.org/MarylandTreeRecyclingDisposal.php](http://www.pickyourownchristmastree.org/MarylandTreeRecyclingDisposal.php)

For more information contact [Jmillard@bcps.org](mailto:Jmillard@bcps.org)

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**Kindness Wrapping Party, A Success!!!**

![Image of a group of students participating in the Kindness Wrapping Party]
On Tuesday December 4th, the Kindness Club and 120 friends gathered together to assemble and wrap Christmas presents for Head Start students. Our students had a blast working together and by the end of the meeting they created 77 gifts.

We would like to give a special “THANK YOU” to all the students, parents, and teachers for their donations and assistance!!!

Contributed by ssharbonda@bcps.org

Each month, Ms. Sharbonda & her students acknowledge those scholars who are resilient and helpful, and who strive to do their best in Algebra & Geometry. These students are recognized below and on a bulletin board in the classroom. Keep up the great work!!

Abby C.  Corin W.  Isa H.  Leo V.  Rylan G.
Anoushka B.  Drew C.  Jack F.  Lily B.  Sarah S.
Asher B.  Elisabeth F.  Jackson G.  Lucy D.  Spencer D.
Ben B.  Elliot L.  Jackson W.  Matthew W.  Sydney S.
Brigid P.  Eric L.  Jacob E.  Max S.  Theo L.
Caroline T.  Erin O.  Jake B.  Malaya M.  Trent R.
Carter B.  Francesco T.  Jason P.  Melina R.  Vivian S.
Claire C.  Grant G.  Josie T.  Michael B.  Yaseen O.
Claire W.  Henry G.  Julia S.  Pablo V.
Colin O.  Ibrahim O.  Kalmia L.  Rea B.
Connor M.  Isaac D.  Keats M.  Rory F.
Questions? Email Mrs. Evans at mevans5@bcps.org or Mr. Jones at ljones16@bcps.org
# DMS Calendar - 2020

## January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Conference Afternoon 3:30 – 5:30 <em>(parents arrange conferences directly with teachers)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Math Information Night for current DMS parents at 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Grade 8 Winter Concert 7-8:00 PM <em>(Monday)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>PTSA Executive Board Meeting 6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Schools Closed for Students - <em>Dr. Martin Luther King Day</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Grade 6 Winter Concert 7-8:00 PM <em>(Wednesday)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Second Marking Period Ends -- <em>Schools Close 3 hours early</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Grade 7 Winter Concert 7-8:00 PM <em>(Monday)</em></td>
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## February

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Tentative: MAP Winter Testing (school-wide dates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Report Cards Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>PTSA Executive Board Meeting: 6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>DMS School Play <em>(snow dates are 2/27-28)</em></td>
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## March

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Interim reminder to parents – check Schoology for updated grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Tentative: <em>MISA 8th Grade Science Testing</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DMS Student Recital 3:00-4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Conference afternoon 3:30 – 5:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PTSA Executive Board Meeting: 6 PM</td>
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</table>

## April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5th Grade Parent Math Information Night 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Third Marking Period Ends: Schools Close 3 hours early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>Spring Break—Schools Closed <em>(4/13: snow/emergency closure makeup day)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Report Cards distributed &amp; PTSA Executive Board Meeting at 6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Tentative: <em>DMS MCAP Spring Testing starts – school-wide</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Schools Closed ---<em>MD Presidential Primary Election Day</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>Tentative: <em>DMS MCAP Spring Testing continues – school wide</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tentative: <em>DMS MCAP Spring Testing concludes – school-wide</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>Teacher Appreciation Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PTA Sponsored Eighth Grade Dance in Gym 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Grade 6 Spring Arts Festival and Concert at 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Interim reminder to parents – check Schoology <em>(conferences as needed)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>7th Grade Spring Arts Festival &amp; Concert 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>8th Grade Spring Arts Festival &amp; Concert 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><em>Memorial Day: Schools closed</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Spring Honors Concert 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>PTSA Executive Board Meeting <em>(final meeting for the year)</em>: 6 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National Junior Honor Society <em>(NJHS)</em> Induction Ceremony 7 pm <em>(Monday)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 or 17</td>
<td>Tentative: *8th Grade Farewell 7pm <em>(Wednesday – date depends on last day of school)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Schools Close 3 Hours Early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>Last Day of School: Schools Close 3 Hours Early (Board of Education will determine)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>